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THE AVICULTURAL MAGAZINE

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BEING THE JOURNAL OF THE
AVICULTURAL SOCIETY FOR
THE STUDY OF FOREIGN AND
BRITISH BIRDS IN FREEDOM
AND CAPTIVITY.

EDITED BY

GRAHAM RENSHAW, M.D., F.R.S.E.

(JANUARY TO AUGUST)

R. I. POCKOCK, F.R.S., AND D. SETH-SMITH, M.B.O.U.

(SEPTEMBER TO DECEMBER).

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REPORT OF THE COUNCIL FOR THE YEAR 1920

The past year has been one of considerable trouble to the Society, and the prospect for next year is not very bright. Late in 1919 Dr. Lovell-Keays took over the Secretaryship, but had to resign owing to ill-health, after a few months. His illness proved fatal in May, and the Council take this opportunity of expressing their regret at the loss of so valuable a colleague, and their sincere sympathy with his family. Mr. J. L. Bonhote, who has now returned to England, has been elected to combine the offices of Secretary and Treasurer, the late Treasurer, Mr. Ezra, having resigned through pressure of other business. Dr. Graham Renshaw, who had been Editor for some time, resigned in August, and Messrs. Seth-Smith and Pocock most kindly undertook this office at short notice, and their subsequent offer to retain it for a time was gratefully accepted by the Council, and they were duly elected. The Society, in common with all similar societies, has been badly crippled by the large increase in the cost of printing, and unless we have an increase in the number of members it will not be possible to carry on without a further addition to the subscription. This the Council hope to avoid. They trust, therefore, that members will assist the Society by canvassing new members, and, if possible, by sending donations, however small, to the General Expenses Fund. This will not only help the Society through its difficulties, but by leading to improvement in the Magazine attract new members, and enable us to regain our pre-War status and standard of work.

For the Council,

J. L. BONHOTE,

Hon. Secretary.

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- GURNEY, G. H. ; Keswick Hall, Norwich.
- HAAGNER, A. K., F.Z.S., M.B.O.U., Director National Zoological Gardens, Box 754, Pretoria, South Africa. (Nov., 1905.)
- HAMILTON, Mrs. ; Villa Alexandra, Chernex sur Montrenx, Switzerland.
- HARCOURT, Rt. Hon. LEWIS, P.C. ; 14 Berkeley Square, W 1. (1913.)
- HARDING, W. A., M.A., F.Z.S. ; Histon Manor, Cambridge. (Dec., 1903.)
- 130 HARLEY, Mrs. F. ; Brampton Bryan, Herefordshire. (1908.)
- HARPER, EDWARD WILLIAM, F.Z.S., M.B.O.U. ; Post Box 86, Calcutta, India. (Feb., 1901.)
- HARTLEY, Mrs. : Lynnhfield, Bishops Lydeard, Somerset. (April, 1897.)
- *HARVEY, The Hon. Lady ; Langley Park, Slough, Bucks. (Oct., 1906.)
- HAWKINS, L. W. ; 203 Clive Road, West Dulwich, S.E. 21. (Jan., 1899.)
- HAYES, Miss PHYLLIS ; Harcourt, Stanton, Shrewsbury. (1915.)
- HEATHCOTE-AMORY, Lady ; Knighthayes Court, Tiverton.
- HEBB, THOMAS ; Brooklea, The Downs, Luton, Beds. (April, 1914.)
- HEMSWORTH, The Rev. B., M.A., J.P. ; Monk Fryston Hall, South Milford, Yorks. (June, 1901.)
- HERBERT, Capt. EDWARD G., R.A.F. ; c/o Cox & Co. (R.A.F. Branch), 111 St. Martin's Lane, W.C. 2.
- 140 HEUMANN, G. A. ; Ramona, Beecroft, Sydney, N.S.W. (Sept., 1913.)

- HEWITT HARALD, F.Z.S. ; East Sooke, Vancouver Island, B.C. (Jan., 1905.)
 HEYWOOD, RICHARD ; Narborough, Norfolk. (Oct., 1911.)
 HILL, ARTHUR W. ; Assist. Director, Royal Gardens, Kew, Surrey. (Oct., 1915.)
 *HILL, Mrs. E. STAVELEY ; Oxley Manor, Wolverhampton. (Oct., 1905.)
 HINDLE, R. FRANKLIN ; 34 Brunswick Road, Liverpool. (Sept., 1898.)
 *HODGSON, The Hon. Mrs. ; Clopton, Stratford-on-Avon. (Mar., 1903.)
 HOLDEN, RALPH A, F.Z.S. ; 5 John Street, Bedford Row, W.C. 1. (May, 1906.)
 *HOPKINSON, EMILIUS, M.A., M.B.Oxon., D.S.O. ; Bathurst, Gambia, West Africa. (Oct., 1906.)
 HOPSON, FRED C. ; Northbrook Street, Newbury. (March, 1897.)
 150 HORNE, ARTHUR ; Bonne-na-Coile, Murtle, Aberdeenshire (Dec., 1917.)
 HORSBRUGH, Mrs BOYD R. ; c'o London & Joint Stock Bank, 69 Pall Mall, S.W. 1.
 HOUSDEN, JAMES B. ; Brooklyn, Cator Road, Sydenham, S.E. 26. (Orig. Mem.)
 HOWARD, ROBERT JAMES, M.B.O.U. ; Shear Bank, Blackburn. (April, 1903.)
 HUNTER, W. G. ; West Street, Sydney N., N.S.W. (Nov., 1917.)
 *HUTCHINSON, Miss ALICE ; Alderton, Chippenham, Wilts. (Aug., 1907)
 HYDE-CLARKE, LIONEL E. H , Woodlands, St. Olave's, Great Yarmouth. (1919.)

 ICK-HEWINS, T. J., M.D. ; P.O. Box 65, Marton, New Zealand. (June, 1918.)
 *INGRAM, Capt. COLLINGWOOD ; The Bungalow, Westgate-on-Sea. (Oct., 1905.)
 *INGRAM, Sir WILLIAM, Bart. ; The Bungalow, Westgate-on-Sea. (Sept., 1904)

 160 JEAKINS, A. E. ; The Studio, Simla, India. (March, 1915.)
 JENNISON, GEORGE, M.A. ; Zoological Gardens, Belle Vue, Manchester. (April, 1918.)
 JOHNSON, Mrs. ; Phoenix Lodge, Lingfield, Surrey. (Jan., 1917)
 *JOHNSTONE, Mrs. E. J. ; Burrswood, Groombridge, Sussex. (May, 1908.)

 KNOBEL, Miss E. MAUD ; 32 Tavistock Square, W.C. 1. (Aug., 1916.)
 KUSER, J. DRYDEN ; Faircourt, Bernardsville, New Jersey, U.S.A. (1912.)

 LAW, SATYA CHARAN ; 24 Tookeas Street, Calcutta. (1919)
 LAWRENCE, S. A. ; Miya, Alma Road, E. St. Kilda, Vict. (Sept. 1916.)
 LEACH, C. F. ; Vale Lodge, Leatherhead, Surrey. (June 1914.)
 LÉCALLIER, Madame ; 109 Rue de la Republique, Caudebec-les-Elbeuf, France. (April, 1918.)
 170 LEE, E. ; The Croft, Loversal, Doncaster. (Oct. 1919.)
 LE SOUËF, A. SHERBOURNE ; Zoological Gardens, Sydney. N S.W. (Aug., 1913.)

- LE SOUËF, DUDLEY ; Zoological Gardens, Royal Park, Parkville, Melbourne, Australia. (1912.)
- LEWIS, D. THOMAS ; Oaklands, Aberkinf, Glam. (1917.)
- LIENAU C. H. A. ; Newbury, 23 Victoria Avenue, Unley Park, South Australia. (Oct., 1917.)
- *LILFORD, The Lady ; Lilford Hall, Oundle, Northants. (Jan., 1898.)
- LLOYD, Lieut.-Col. A. ; Brent House, Meole Brace, Shrewsbury. (May, 1918.)
- *LOCKYER, ALFRED ; St. Monica's Lodge, Elm Park Road, Winchmore Hill, N. 21. (Dec., 1905.)
- *LOVELACE, The Countess of ; Wentworth House, Chelsea Embankment, S.W. 3. (May, 1906.)
- LOVELL-KEYS, L., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P. ; Stoke Lodge, London Road, Guildford (Aug., 1913.) (*Hon. Secretary and Treasurer.*)
- 180 LOVELL KEAYS, Mrs. ; Stoke Lodge, London Road, Guildford. (July, 1916.)
- LOVETT, C. ; Glendale Park, Nashville, Tenn., U.S.A. (Dec., 1912.)
- LOW, GEORGE E. ; 14 Royal Terrace East, Kingstown, Ireland. (Mar., 1913.)
- LUCAS, Dr. N. S. ; 19 Westbourne Terrace, W. 2. (Jan., 1913.)
- McCORQUODALE, Mrs. ; Cound Hall, Shrewsbury. (Jan., 1920.)
- *McGEACH, R. T., M.D. ; Mona Lodge, Lézayre, near Ramsey, Isle of Man. (Aug., 1908.)
- MALONE, Mrs. M. L'ESTRANGE ; West Lodge, Malton, Yorks. (Jan., 1902.)
- MANCHESTER PUBLIC LIBRARIES ; Reference Library, Piccadilly, Manchester. (July, 1913.)
- *MANNERS-SMITH, Lieut.-Col. ; The Residency, Nepal, India. (1911.)
- *MANSON BARR, Dr. PHILIP H., B.A., M.B.O.U. ; 32 Weymouth Street, W. 1. (Nov., 1907.)
- 190*MARSHALL, ARCHIBALD McLEAN ; Chitecombe, Brede, Sussex. (Jan., 1906.)
- MARSHALL, F. ; 34 Stirling Road, Bournemouth. (1916.)
- MARTIN, H. C. ; 147 Victoria Road, Old Charlton, Kent ; and Saladero, Liebig, Fray Bentos, Uruguay. (Jan., 1897.)
- MASON, D. ; Maisonnette, Broadstairs. (June, 1914.)
- MAUD, Mrs. CHARLES E. ; Hotel del Monte, Monterey, Cal., U.S.A. (July, 1913.)
- MEADE-WALDO, E. G. B., F.Z.S., M.B.O.U. ; Hever Warren, Hever, Kent. (Jan., 1895.)
- MERCER, WILLIAM ; Doylestown, Pennsylvania, U.S.A. (Mar., 1913.)
- MILLER, R. SCOTT ; Clydeneuk, Uddingston, Glasgow. (1919.)
- MILLSUM, O. ; 79 Northdown Road, Cliftonville, Margate. (Aug., 1909.)
- MITCHELL, HARRY, 42 Brunswick Square, Hove. (Feb., 1904.)
- 200 MOIR, J. K. ; Normanton, Young Street, Albury, N.S.W. (July, 1918.)
- MONEY Sir LEO CHIOZZA, M.P. ; The Grey House, Hampstead Lane, N. 6. (Nov., 1913.)
- MONTAGU, Hon. E. S., M.P., M.B.O.U. ; 24 Queen Anne's Gate, S.W. (May, 1912.)
- MORTIMER, Mrs. ; Wigmore, Holmwood, Surrey. (Orig. Mem.)

- MOSS J. W. Treleven, Hockerley Lane, Whaley Bridge, near Stockport. (Mar., 1918.)
- MUNDY, Miss SYBIL MILLER; Shipley Hall, Derby. (Jan., 1909.)
- MUNT, HENRY; 10 Ashburn Place, S. Kensington, S W. 7. (1912.)
- MURRAY, Mrs. E. G. DEWAR; Inchrye House, Lindores, Fifeshire (June, 1919.)
- MYLAN, JAMES GEORGE, B.A., M.B. (Univ. Coll.), L.R.C.P. and L.R.C.S. (Ed.), etc.; 90 Upper Hanover Street, Sheffield. (Dec., 1901.)
- NEILSON, Major GEO. M.; Boraston Knowe, Blackhall, Midlothian. (June, 1918)
- 210 NEVILLE, Capt. T. N. C.; Bramall Hall, near Stockport. (July, 1917.)
- NEWMAN, T. H. F.Z.S., M.B.O.U., Newlands, Harrowdene Road, Wembley, Middlesex. (May, 1900.)
- NEWMARSH, C. T.; Gamage's, Ltd., Holborn, W.C. (Aug., 1915.)
- *NICHOLS, WALTER B., M.B.O.U.; Stour Lodge, Bradfield, Manningtree. (Jan., 1907.)
- "NOSHOMU"; c/o Maruzen Co., Tokyo, Japan. (1919.)
- OAKEY, W.; The Anglers' Inn, 4 Pole Street, Preston. (March, 1896.)
- OBERHOLSER, HARRY C.; 2805 18th Street, N.W., Washington, D.C., U.S.A. (Oct., 1903.)
- OGILVIE-GRANT, W. R., F.Z.S., M.B.O.U.; Farley Hill Cottage, near Reading. (Dec., 1903.)
- OGLE, BERTRAM SAVILLE, M.B.O.U.; Mill House, Steeple Aston, Oxford. (Dec., 1902.)
- ONSLow, The Countess of; Clandon Park, Guildford, Surrey. (July, 1910.)
- 220 O'REILLY, NICHOLAS S.; 144 Eastern Road, Kemp Town, Brighton. (Dec., 1894.)
- PAM, ALBERT, F.Z.S.; Wormleybury, Broxbourne, Herts. (Jan., 1906.)
- PAM, HUGO, C.M.Z.S.; National Match Factory of Venezuela, Ltd., Caracas, Venezuela. (Sept., 1911.)
- PARKER, H. HAMBLEY, jun., c/o Standard Bank of South Africa, Port Elizabeth, Cape Province, South Africa. (June, 1919.)
- PARMENTER, Miss; Sedgemere Hall, Roydon, Essex. (Nov., 1917.)
- PENROSE, FRANK G., M.D., F.Z.S., M.B.O.U.; Rathkale, 51 Surrey Road, Bournemouth. (Dec., 1903.)
- PERCIVAL, WALTER G.; Kalnangi, Chania Bridge, British East Africa. (Feb., 1915.)
- PHILLIPS, E. R.; 12 Waltham Terrace, Blackrock, Co. Dublin. (Feb., 1919.)
- PHILLIPS, JOHN C. 79 Mount Vernon Street, Boston, Mass., U.S.A. (March, 1910.)
- PICKFORD, RANDOLPH JOHN; Thorn Lea, Carmel Road, Darlington. (Feb., 1903.)
- 230 PIKE, L. G.; Kingsbarrow, Wareham, Dorset. (1912.)
- *POCOCK, R. I., F.R.S., F.L.S., F.Z.S., M.B.O.U.; Zoological Society's Gardens, Regent's Park, N.W. 1. (Feb., 1904.)

- POTTER BERNARD E., M.B., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P.; 26 Park Crescent, Portland Place, W. 1 (March, 1914.)
- PRINCETON UNIVERSITY, LIBRARY OF; Princeton, New Jersey, U.S.A. (Nov., 1907.)
- PYCRAFT, W. P., A.L.S., F.Z.S., M.B.O.U., etc.; British Museum (Nat. Hist.), Cromwell Road, S.W.7. (Nov., 1904.) (Hon. Member.)
- PYMAN, Miss E. E.; West House, West Hartlepool. (June, 1919.)
- QUINCEY, Capt. RICHARD S. DE; Inglewood, Chislehurst, Kent. (April, 1913)
- RADCLIFFE, Major A. DELMÉ; 105th Maratha Light Infantry, c/o Messrs. Cox & Co., Army Agents, 16 Charing Cross, S.W. 1.
- RATHBORNE, HENRY B.; Dreenan, Boa Island, Pettigo, Co. Fermanagh. (May, 1901.)
- *RATTIGAN, Lieut. G. E.; 29 Caroline Street, Eaton Terrace, S.W. 1. (Aug., 1908.)
- 210 REID, Mrs.; Funchal, Madeira. (Feb., 1895.)
- RENSHAW, GRAHAM, M.D., F.R.S.E. (*Editor*); Sale Bridge House, Sale, Manchester. (Jan., 1910.)
- RENSHAW, H. S., M.D., L.R.C.P.; 2 Richmond Hill, Bowdon, Altrincham, Cheshire. (Jan., 1918.)
- REPARD, Mrs. G. M.; Preston St. Mary, Langley Avenue, Surbiton. (May, 1919.)
- *RICE, Capt. G.; Persey House, Blairgowrie, N.B. (May, 1912.)
- RICHINGS, Rev. B. G.; Barton Vicarage, Cambridge. (June, 1919.)
- RILEY, JOSEPH H.; U.S. National Museum, Washington, D.C., U.S.A. (June, 1906.)
- *ROBBINS, HENRY; The Maisonnnette, New Oxford Street, W.C. (April, 1908.)
- ROBERTS, Mrs. MARY G., C.M.Z.S.; Zoological Gardens, Beaumaris, Montpelier Street, Hobart, Tasmania. (June, 1903.)
- ROGERS, H. E.; "Arequipa," 7 Aigburth Road, Liverpool. (June, 1919.)
- 250*ROGERS, Col. J. M., D.S.O., F.Z.S., M.B.O.U. (late Royal Dragoons); Riverhill, Sevenoaks. (April, 1907.)
- ROGERSON, A.; Fleurville, Ashford Road, Cheltenham. (Dec., 1902.)
- ROTHSCHILD, Hon. LIONEL DE, M.P.; 46 Park Street, W. 1. (Nov., 1913.)
- ROTHWELL, JAMES E.; 153 Sewall Avenue, Brookline, Mass., U.S.A. (Oct., 1910.)
- ROYAL ZOOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF IRELAND; c/o Royal College of Science, Dublin. (Oct., 1905.)
- RUMSEY, LACY; 23 Rue de Serpa Pinto, Villa Nova de Gaya, Oporto, Portugal. (April, 1919)
- *ST. QUINTIN, WILLIAM HERBERT, F.Z.S., M.B.O.U.; Scampston Hall, Rillington, York. (Orig. Mem.)
- SAKAI TATSUZO; 2 Chome, Kano Cho. Kobe, Japan. (1919.)

- SAMUELSON, Lady : Hatchford Park, Cobham, Surrey. (July, 1916.)
- SCLATER, W. L., M.A. F.Z.S. ; 10 Sloane Court, S.W. 3. (Aug., 1904)
- 260 SCOTT, Capt. B. HAMILTON, R.F.A. ; Hamildcan, Ipswich. (1912.)
- SEBAG-MONTEFIORE, Mrs. ; 2 Palace Houses, W. 2. (1913.)
- *SEPPINGS, Major J. W. H. ; A.P.D., The Castle, Cape Town. (Sept., 1907.)
- *SETH-SMITH, DAVID, F.Z.S., M.B.O.U. ; 34 Elsworthy Road, South Hampstead, N.W. 3. (Dec., 1894.)
- *SETH-SMITH, LESLIE M., B.A., M.B.O.U. ; Al'eyne, Caterham Valley, Surrey ; and Kampala, Uganda. (July, 1912.)
- SICH, HERBERT LEONARD ; Corney House, Burlington Lane. Chiswick, W. 4. (Feb., 1902.)
- SILVER, ALLEN, F.Z.S. ; 18 Baneswell Road, Newport, Mon.
- SIMPSON, ARCHIBALD ; Oakfield House, Stanks, Crossgates, near Leeds. (Feb., 1901.)
- SMALLEY, F. W., F.Z.S., M.B.O.U. ; North Cove Hall, near Beccles Suffolk. (1912.)
- SMITH, C. BARNBY ; Woodlands, Retford. (Aug., 1906.)
- 270 SMITH O. C. ; 73 Audley Street, Reading. (March, 1915.)
- SMITH, PHILIP ; Haddon House, Ashton-on-Mersey, Sale, Manchester (Dec. 1917.)
- SMITH, W PROCTOR ; Haddon House, Ashton-on-Mersey, Sale, Manchester. (Nov., 1917.)
- SNAPE, Major A. E., R.A.F. ; Lower Hall, Mellor, Derbyshire. (June, 1918.)
- SOUTHPORT CORPORATION, CURATOR OF ; Hesketh Park, Southport. (Jan., 1904.)
- SPRANGE, Sergt. D. H. ; Terranova, Chinderah, Tweed River, N.S.W (Feb., 1918.)
- SPROSTON, Mrs. ; Elm House, Nantwich, Cheshire. (June, 1917.)
- *STANSFIELD, Capt. JOHN ; Dunninald, Montrose, N B. (Dec., 1896.)
- STAPLES-BROWNE, R. ; Bradfield House, Bicester, Oxon. (Aug., 1898.)
- STEVENS, H. ; Gopaldara Mirik P.O., *via* Kurslong D.H.Rly., Bengal, India. (Oct., 1911.)
- 280 STOCKPORT CORPORATION ; Superintendent, Vernon Park, Stockport. (Oct., 1902.)
- SUGGITT, ROBERT ; Suggitt's Lane, Clcethorpes, Grimsby. (Dec., 1903.)
- SUTCLIFFE, ALBERT ; Fairholme, Grimsby. (Feb., 1906.)
- SWAYSLAND WALTER 47 Queen's Road, Brighton (Orig. Mem.)
- .
- TAKA-TSUKASA, NOBUSUKE ; 106 Honmura-Cho, Azabu, Tokyo, Japan. (Feb., 1914.)
- *TANNER, Dr. FRANK L. ; Vanvert House, Guernsey. (Jan., 1914.)
- TAVISTOCK, The Marquess of ; Warblington House, Havant, Hants. (1912.)
- TEMPLE, W. R. ; Ormonde, Datchet, Bucks (June, 1907.)
- TERRY, Major HORACE A., M.B.O.U. (late Oxford and Bucks Light Infantry) ; Compton Grange, Compton, Guildford. (Oct., 1902.)
- TESCHEMAKER W. E., B.A. ; Ringmore, Teignmouth, Devon. (May, 1904.)

- 290 THOM, ALFRED A. ; Whitewell Lodge, Whitechurch Salop. (June, 1913.)
 THOMAS, F. INIGO ; 2 Mulberry Walk, Church Street, Chelsea, S.W. 3. (June, 1914.)
 THOMAS, Miss F. G. F. ; Weston Hall, Towcester, Northants. (March, 1899.)
 THOMAS, HENRY ; 15 Clinning Road, Birkdale, Southport. (Jan., 1895.)
 THOMASSET, BERNARD C., F.Z.S. ; The Manor House, Ashmansworth, near Newbury. (July, 1896.)
 THOMASSET, H. P. ; Mahé, Seychelles. (Nov., 1906.)
 THOMPSON, Mrs. F. F. ; Canandaigua, N Y., U.S.A. (July, 1907.)
 THORNILEY, PERCY WRIGHT ; Hole Head, Dawlish. (Feb., 1902.)
 TICEHURST, NORMAN FREDERICK, M.A., M.B., F.R.C.S., F.Z.S. ; 24 Pevensy Road, St Leonard's-on-Sea. (Dec., 1906.)
 TILLEY, G. D. ; Darien, Conn., U.S.A.
- 300 TRENOW, EVELYN HENRY, F.Z.S. ; Ivy Lodge, Epping, Essex. (Nov., 1910.)
 *TREVOR-BATTYE, AUBYN B. R., M.A., F.L.S. ; Ashford Chace, Petersfield, Hants. (July, 1898.)
 TUNNICLIFFE, Mrs. KATHERINE A. ; 42 Hesketh Road, Southport. (Sept., 1919.)
 TURNER, Mrs. TURNER ; Abbey Spring, Beaulieu, Hants. (July, 1910.)
 TWEEDIE, Lieut.-Col. W. ; c/o Mrs. Tweedie, 8 Glebe Crescent, Stirling. (April, 1903.)
 TYRRELL, Mrs. Eleanor ; St. Kitts, Wych Hill, Woking, Surrey. (1919.)
 URWICK, DOUGLAS R. ; Prior's Barton, Winchester. (March, 1913.)
 VALENTINE, ERNEST ; 7 Highfield, Workington. (May, 1899.)
 VAN OORT, Dr. E. D. ; Museum of Natural History, Leiden, Holland.
 VAN SOMEREN, V. G. L., L.R.C.P. & S., Edin., L.R.F.P.S., Glas., L.D.S. ; c/o Dr. Hartert, Tring, Herts. (June, 1915.)
- 310 WACHSMANN, A. E. WRIGHT DE BERRI ; Maitai, Murray Road, Beccroft, N.S.W. (Aug., 1914.)
 WAIT, Miss L. M. St. A. ; 12 Rosary Gardens, S.W. 7. (Feb., 1909.)
 WALKER, Miss H. K. O. ; Chesham, Bury, Lanes. (Feb., 1895.)
 *WALLOP, The Hon. FREDERICK ; 39 Eaton Terrace, S W 1. (Feb., 1902.)
 WATERFIELD, Mrs. NOEL E. ; Blyburgate House, Beeches, Suffolk; and Port Sedan, Red Sea. (Sept., 1904.)
 WAUD, Capt. P. REGINALD ; 203 Knightsbridge, S.W. 1. (May, 1913.)
 WAUD, Mrs. P. R. ; 203 Knightsbridge, S W 7. (Sept., 1918.)
 WEIR, J. ; Douglas Cottage, Upper Ashley, New Milton. Hants. (July, 1918.)
 WELLINGTON, Her Grace the Duchess of, Ewhurst Park, Basingstoke. (Oct., 1913.)
 WHITAKER, JOSEPH I. S., F.Z.S., M.B.O.U. ; Villa Maifitano, Palermo, Sicily. (Aug., 1903.)
- 320 WHITLAW, Miss ROSA M. ; Amerden, Taplow. (Aug., 1914.)
 WILKINSON, JOHN ; West Park, Shelmerlie, Ayrshire. (Dec., 1911.)

WILLFORD, HENRY ; Sans Souci, Havenstreet, Ryde, Isle of Wight. (Nov , 1907.)

WILLIAMS, Mrs. C. H. ; Emmanuel Parsonage, Exeter. (May, 1902.)

*WILSON, Dr. MAURICE A. ; Walton Lodge, Pannal, Harrogate. (Oct., 1905.)

*WINCHELSEA AND NOTTINGHAM, The Countess of : Haverholme Priory, Sleaford (April, 1903.)

WINDHAM, Lady EDITH ; Soham House, Newmarket.

WOODWARD, KENNETH M ; 1 Madison Avenue, New York, U.S.A. (March, 1915.)

WOOLDRIDGE, Prof. G. H., F.R.C.V.S. ; Royal Veterinary College, Camden Town, N.W. (1912.)

WORKMAN, WILLIAM HUGHES, M.B.O.U. ; Lismore, Windsor Avenue, Belfast. (May, 1903.)

330*WORMALD, HUGH ; Heathfield, East Dereham, Norfolk. (Dec., 1904.)

YEALLAND, JAMES ; Binstead, Isle of Wight. (July, 1913.)

YOUNG, Rev. HALFORD ; The Vicarage, Stone, Aylesbury. (July, 1917.)

Rules of the Avicultural Society.

As amended January, 1908.

1.—The name of the Society shall be THE AVICULTURAL SOCIETY, and its object shall be the study of Foreign and British Birds in freedom and in captivity. Poultry, Pigeons, and Canaries shall be outside the scope of the Society. The year of the Society, with that of each volume of the Society's Magazine, which shall be known as *The Avicultural Magazine*, shall commence with the month of January and end on the 31st of December following.

2.—The Avicultural Society shall consist of Ordinary and Honorary Members, and the latter shall be restricted in number to six, and be elected by the Council.

3.—The Officers of the Society shall be elected, annually if necessary, by members of the Council in manner hereinafter provided, and shall consist of a President, one or more Vice-Presidents, a Business Secretary, a Correspondence Secretary, an Editor, a Treasurer, an Auditor, a Scrutineer, and a Council of fifteen members. The Secretaries, Editor, and Treasurer shall be *ex officio* Members of the Council.

4.—New Members shall be proposed in writing, and the name and address of every person thus proposed, with the name of the Member proposing him, shall be published in the next issue of the Magazine. Unless the candidate shall, within two weeks after the publication of his name in the Magazine, be objected to by at least two Members, he shall be deemed to be duly elected. If five Members shall lodge with the Business Secretary objections to any candidate he shall not be elected, but the signatures to the signed objections must be verified by the Scrutineer. If two or more Members (but less than five) shall object to any candidate, the Secretary shall announce in the next number of the Magazine that such objections have been lodged (but shall not disclose the names of the objectors), and shall request the Members to vote upon the question of the election of such candidate. Members shall record their votes in sealed letters addressed to the Scrutineer, and a candidate shall not be elected unless two-thirds of the votes recorded be in his favour; nor shall a candidate be elected if five or more votes be recorded against his election.

5.—Each Member shall pay an annual subscription of £1, to be due and payable in advance on the 1st of November in each year. New Members shall pay, in addition, an entrance fee of 10s. 6d.; and, on payment of their entrance fee and

subscription, they shall be entitled to receive all the numbers of the Society's Magazine for the current year.

6.—Members intending to resign their membership at the end of the current year of the Society are expected to give notice to the Business Secretary before the 1st of October, so that their names may not be included in the "List of Members", which shall be published annually in the November number of the Magazine.

7.—The Magazine of the Society shall be issued on or about the first day of every month, and forwarded, post free to *all the Members who shall have paid their subscriptions for the year*; but no Magazine shall be sent or delivered to any Member until the annual subscription shall have reached the hands of the Business Secretary or the Publishers. Members whose subscriptions shall not have been paid as above by the first day in September in any year shall cease to be Members of the Society, and shall not be re-admitted until a fresh entrance fee, as well as the annual subscription, shall have been paid.

8.—The Secretaries, Editor, and Treasurer shall be elected for a term of five years, and, should a vacancy occur, it may be temporarily filled up by the Executive Committee (see Rule 10). At the expiration of the term of five years in every case it shall be competent for the Council to nominate the same officer, or another Member, for a further time of five years, unless a second candidate be proposed by not less than twenty-five Members of at least two years' standing, as set forth below.

In the September number of the Magazine preceding the retirement from office of the Secretaries, Editor, or Treasurer, the Council shall publish the names of those gentlemen whom they have nominated to fill the vacancies thus created; and these gentlemen shall be deemed duly elected unless another candidate or candidates be proposed by not less than fifteen Members of at least two years' standing. Such proposal, duly seconded and containing the written consent of the nominee to serve, if elected, in the capacity for which he is proposed, must reach the Business Secretary on or before the 15th of September.

The Council shall also publish yearly in the September number of the Magazine the names of those gentlemen nominated by them for the posts of Auditor and Scrutineer respectively.

9.—The Members of the Council shall retire by rotation, two at the end of each year of the Society (unless a vacancy or vacancies shall occur otherwise), and two other Members of the Society shall be recommended by the Council to take the place of those retiring. The names of the two Members recommended shall be printed in the September number of *The Avicultural Magazine*. Should the Council's selection be objected to by fifteen or more Members, these shall have power to put forward two other candidates, whose names, together with the signatures of no less than fifteen Members proposing them, must reach the Hon. Business Secretary by the 15th of September. The names of the four candidates will then be printed on a voting paper and sent to each Member with the October

number of the Magazine, and the result of the voting published in the November issue. Should no alternative candidates be put forward, in the manner and by the date above specified, the two candidates recommended by the Council shall be deemed to have been duly elected. In the event of an equality of votes the President shall have a casting vote.

If any Member of the Council does not attend a meeting for two years in succession the Council shall have power to elect another Member in his place.

10.—Immediately after the election of the Council that body shall proceed to elect three from its Members (*ex officio* Members not being eligible). These three, together with the Secretaries, Treasurer, and Editor, shall form a Committee known as the Executive Committee. Members of the Council shall be asked every year (whether there has been an election of that body or not) if they wish to stand for the Executive, and in any year when the number of candidates exceeds three there shall be an election of the Executive.

The duties of the Executive Committee shall be as follows :—

- (i) To sanction all payments to be made on behalf of the Society.
- (ii) In the event of the resignation of any of the officers during the Society's year, to fill temporarily the vacancy until the end of the year. In the case of the office being one which is held for more than one year (e.g. Secretaries, Editor, or Treasurer) the appointment shall be confirmed by the Council at its next meeting.
- (iii) To act for the Council in the decision of any other matter that may arise in connexion with the business of the Society.

The decision of any matter by the Executive to be settled by a simple majority (five to form a quorum). In the event of a tie on any question, such question shall be forthwith submitted by letter to the Council for their decision.

The Executive shall not have power

- (i) To add to or alter the Rules ;
- (ii) To expel any Member ;
- (iii) To re-elect the Secretaries, Editor, or Treasurer for a second term of office.

It shall not be lawful for the Treasurer to pay any account unless such account be duly initialled by the Executive.

It shall be lawful for the Business Secretary or Editor to pledge the Society's credit for a sum not exceeding £15.

Should a Member wish any matter to be brought before the Council direct such matter should be sent to the Business Secretary with a letter stating that it is to be brought before the Council at their next meeting, otherwise communications will in the first place be brought before the Executive.

A decision of a majority of the Council, or a majority of the Executive endorsed by the Council, shall be final and conclusive in all matters.

11.—The Editor shall have an absolute discretion as to what matter shall be published in the Magazine (subject to the control of the Executive Committee).

The Business Secretary and Editor shall respectively refer all matters of doubt and difficulty to the Executive Committee.

12.—The Council (but not a Committee of the Council) shall have power to alter and add to the Rules, from time to time, in any manner they may think fit. Five to form a quorum at any meeting of the Council.

13.—The Council shall have power to expel any Member from the Society at any time without assigning any reason.

14.—Neither the office of Scrutineer nor that of Auditor shall be held for two consecutive years by the same person.

15.—The Scrutineer shall not reveal to any person how any Member shall have voted.

16.—That each Member (not a Dealer) be entitled to one advertisement, free of charge, each month, the Editor to be sole judge as to whether such advertisement can and shall be published or not. Priority shall be given to those who apply first.

The Society's Medal.

RULES.

The Medal may be awarded at the discretion of the Committee to any Member who shall succeed in breeding, in the United Kingdom, any species of bird which shall not be known to have been previously bred in captivity in Great Britain or Ireland. Any Member wishing to obtain the Medal must send a detailed account for publication in the Magazine within about eight weeks from the date of hatching of the young, and furnish such evidence of the facts as the Executive Committee may require. The Medal will be awarded only in cases where the young shall live to be old enough to feed themselves, and to be wholly independent of their parents.

The account of the breeding must be reasonably full so as to afford instruction to our Members, and should describe the plumage of the young and *be of value as a permanent record of the nesting and general habits of the species.* These points will have great weight when the question of awarding the Medal is under consideration.

The parents of the young must be the *bona fide* property of the breeder. An evasion of this rule, in any form whatever, will not only disqualify the breeder from any claim to a Medal in that particular instance, but will seriously prejudice any other claims he or she may subsequently advance for the breeding of the same or any other species.

In every case the decision of the Committee shall be final.

The Medal will be forwarded to each Member as soon after it shall have been awarded as possible.

The Medal is struck in bronze (but the Committee reserve the right to issue it in *silver* in very special cases) and measures $2\frac{1}{2}$ inches in diameter. It bears on the obverse a representation of two birds with a nest containing eggs, and the words "The Avicultural Society—founded 1894". On the reverse is the following inscription: "Awarded to [*name of recipient*] for rearing the young of [*name of species*], a species not previously bred in captivity in the United Kingdom."

The Society's Prize.

The Society offers an annual Prize in Literature for the best article or series of articles on foreign birds, wild or captive, submitted by members living abroad, and accepted for publication in the Magazine, the Prize to consist of a bound and inscribed copy of *Practical Bird-keeping* or some other suitable book, the award of the Prize to rest with the Editor.

The Prize is open for competition by foreign members only, as they are not eligible for the Medal.

The Society's Certificate.

This Certificate is given for priority in breeding birds in cages, the dimensions of which must not exceed one cubic yard, the conditions of award to be the same as those for the Medal.

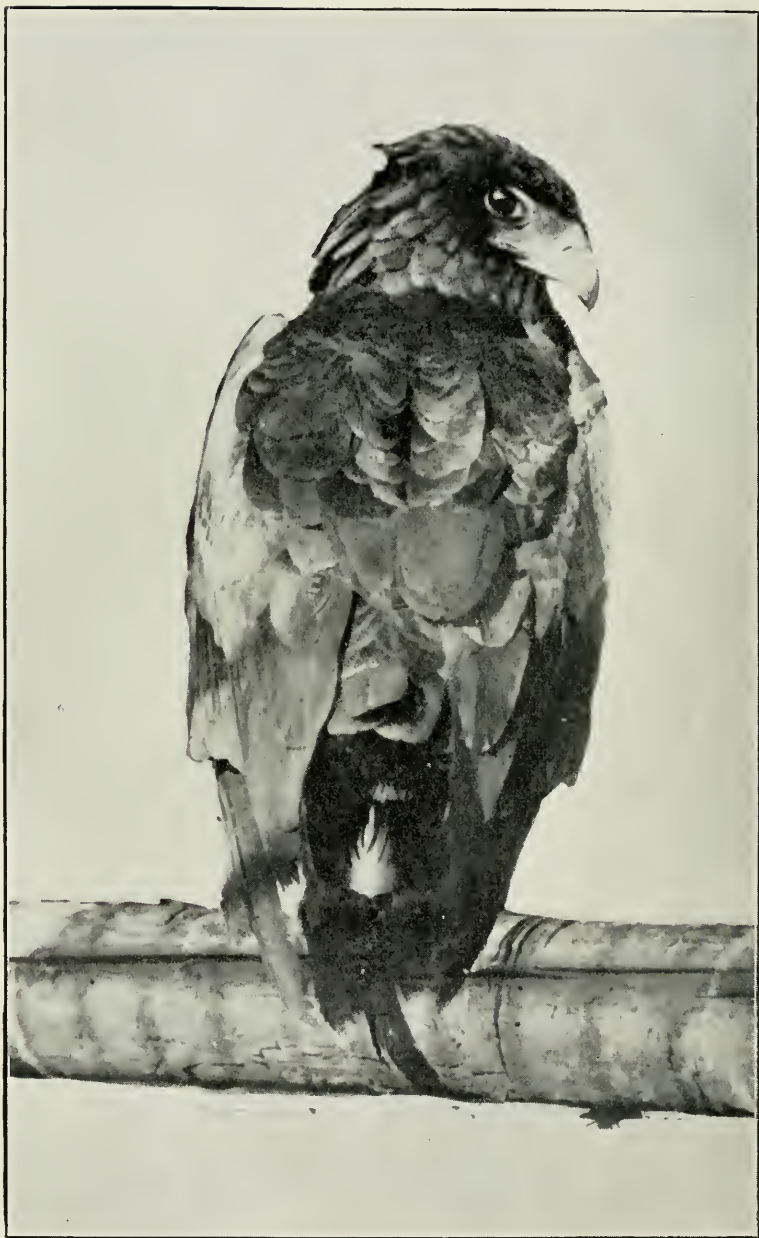


Photo by Commander Rotch, R.N.

THE PHŒNIX.

[*Frontispiece.*

THE AVICULTURAL MAGAZINE

BEING THE JOURNAL OF
THE AVICULTURAL SOCIETY
FOR THE STUDY OF
FOREIGN & BRITISH BIRDS
IN FREEDOM & CAPTIVITY

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JANUARY, 1920.

THE PHOENIX

“I will believe

That there are unicorns: that in Arabia

There is one tree, the Phoenix' throne—one Phoenix

At this hour reigneth there.”—*Tempest*, iii, 3.

The Avicultural Society, seeking some emblem to symbolize its activities, might well choose a Phoenix; for as that legendary bird rose reborn from its ashes, so does our Science—now no longer in eclipse, no longer in pin-feather—soar upwards full-winged. At the beginning of a new avicultural year, with abundant record of good work behind it, and free from the incubus of the War, the Society should adopt the Phoenix as its crest.

The Bateleur Eagle figured opposite has been supposed to be the original of the Phoenix. This smart little species, with maroon-coloured back and tail and coral-red cere and feet, may usually be seen and heard at the Zoo, uttering its cry in the early morning. Thus in shape, colour, and habits it really does resemble the Eagle-like Phoenix of Herodotus and others, which had golden or red plumage and saluted the rising sun with a song. The Phoenix was reputed to live for five hundred years; perhaps this is a favourable omen for the Society!

Those who have seen in Sir Harry Johnston's *Uganda Protectorate* the plate of a Bateleur standing with wings outstretched as it pins

a Jackal—the hues of the bird thrown up by a brilliant background—will understand how this handsome Eagle would appeal to the romantic fancies of the ancients.

To us the Phoenix symbolizes not merely the beginning of a new zoological year, but also the revival of Aviculture. The renaissance of art and literature in the sixteenth century is being paralleled in minor degree by a renaissance of science in the twentieth. All the later issues of the Magazine evidence the renewal of interest in keeping live birds, and although it would be at present premature to speak of them, several new zoological schemes well worthy of the name have come to the notice of the Editor. Soon aviary and paddock will be vocal with song and bright with colour, as of old; from the ends of the earth the bird riches of the world begin once more to flow towards us.

The Editor thanks his contributors for the brilliant papers continually offered him, for the donations to the Illustration Fund, and for the numerous avicultural notes supplied. His best thanks are likewise due to the eminent naturalists who have undertaken the reviewing of books for the Magazine.

AN AVICULTURAL TRAGEDY

By. T. HEBB

Although I am fond of all birds, Australian species have been my favourites. I have kept almost every kind of Australian Parrakeet and Finch, and it has lately been my hobby to try to get them to nest. I have had Kings, Browns, Red and Mealy Rosellas, Hooded, Many-coloured, Pennants, Crimson-winged, Barrabands, Lorikeets, and many others—all lovely and interesting birds, most of which I have induced to nest, and they have reared young with me. I now have Rosellas, Senegal Parrots, Blossomheads, Peach-faced and Black-faced Lovebirds, Red-rumps, and Budgerigars; the latter consist of Green, Yellow, Blue-bred Green, and Blue varieties. The Blue Budgerigars have gone to nest, and I hope soon to see young birds of this much coveted colour.

I called in at Gamage's the other day; they had just received a wonderful consignment of African birds—Violet-eared Waxbills, Bluebreasts, Black-cheeks, Melba Finches, and all kinds of Whydahs, including the Queen, Pintail, Paradise, and Red-collared species. They were the finest lot I had ever seen, and needless to say I came away with a parcel and a much lighter pocket, but happy. The Queen Whydahs were lovely, and at first all the lot did well. Alas! I soon had awful luck. One night the syphon-condenser gas-stove in the bird-room went wrong, fumed, and filled the room with black smoke, killing four hen Blue Budgerigars, four Queen Whydahs, four Pintail Whydahs, two Paradise Whydahs, some Blue-bred Budgerigars, and others. I was away at the time, and had the news on my return. You may guess how I felt about the Blue Budgerigars after all my expense and trouble in getting them; I felt like clearing out the survivors and never keeping another bird!

Yet, strange to say, in a day or two I began to wonder how I could replace what I had lost, and found myself again at Gamage's and again writing after Blue Budgerigars. I am pleased to say that a lady Member has kindly let me have two hen Blues, and I now have two pairs again. Two cock Blues had survived, so that I now again have hopes of breeding them.

THE MANTCHURIAN CRANE

By W. H. ST. QUINTIN

Amongst the favourite birds that I managed to keep through the difficult years of the War is a fine pair of Mantchurian Cranes that I bought from Hagenbeek early in 1912. They were, I was told, caught in China in October of the previous year, and passed on to Calcutta till they were tamed and accustomed to captivity, and then deported to England in the March following, when I secured them. They were quite adult, and the bigger bird—but the one with less intensely crimson forehead patch and paler leaden-grey neck-stripe—turned out to be the male. On closer examination the male has some dullish red skin between the eye and the angle of the mouth, which is wanting in the female, and is probably a good sexual distinction.

Though very demonstrative and noisy each spring, I had never seen any signs of nesting till last year (1918), when the birds put together a platform of dry sedge on the edge of the water; but there were no further results.

However, at the end of March this last spring, and early in April, it was evident that they seriously contemplated breeding; and on April 13 they were pulling sedge about, and made a fairly compact nest on a small promontory with water on three sides, just such a place as a Swan might choose. But this was rejected in favour of a more open position, also close to the lake-side. The nest was more substantial than that of any other Crane that has bred with me, but no material other than the dry sedge of the previous year was used.

On the morning of April 28 we found the ground white with snow, which remained till midday, and we had 9 degrees of frost on the glass during the night. The female Crane was sitting with snow all round her, and no doubt the first egg was laid that morning. Till May 15 the male Crane was never seen on the nest, but as he began to sit by day on that date and had always shown great interest in the proceedings, I think it likely that he shared the duties of incubation all along, as other male Cranes do, but probably at night. These Cranes have always been delightfully tame and confiding, but though I often ventured within a few yards of the nest one or other of the birds was always on, and I only once got a sight of the eggs and that from a distance.

Once I saw a Jackdaw alight near the nest while the female was standing preening her feathers a little way off; she instantly guessed his intentions, and rushing up with outstretched wings drove him away. On May 31 one egg was chipped in the morning. On the afternoon of the next day one young bird had left the shell, but remained in the nest. The male Crane was brooding at 7.30 that evening. At 9 a.m. on June 2 the young Crane left the nest, on which the male was sitting, and walked to meet the female a few yards away, and took several bits of boiled rabbit and Spratt's poultry meal from her bill. The female then relieved the male and took charge of the remaining egg, which was chipped, and the chick was struggling to free itself from the shell. On the 3rd, at 7 p.m., both young Cranes were being



Photo by W. H. St. Quintin.

Generosity of W. H. St. Quintin.

MANTCHURIAN CRANES AND YOUNG.

brooded about 5 yards from the nest. On the next afternoon both were able to walk a little, and that evening they were brooded quite 50 yards away.

On June 9 my keeper found that the Crane family had crossed the water (some 35 yards wide), and were exploiting a paddock where some stray sheep were running. Later they had crossed back into their own territory. I watched them afterwards cross the water more than once, and it was pretty to see them make the passage. The parents all the time kept up a "honking" note, like a distant motor-horn, the male leading and the female coming a few yards behind, with a young one on each side of her. The old birds could wade, but the little Cranes swam like young Geese.

On July 10 the young Cranes looked well and had grown appreciably, especially as to their legs. They could walk slowly along between the parents, who caught flies off the long grass and dug up worms, etc., reaching out the prey to the young ones who came forward to receive it. I could see that the young Cranes regarded me uneasily, but the old ones took no notice, and the little ones were soon reassured.

About this time we began to miss the ducklings of several species of Teal—Blue-winged, Cinnamon, Chestnut-breasted, Chilian, and Brazilian—which were being reared by their parents, and unaccountably disappeared while in the down. The Cranes had lived amicably for seven years with the waterfowl, without ever interfering with them, and in the previous summer (1918) several broods grew up to maturity in the same enclosure; but we soon had sufficient evidence to convict the Cranes. Although the young birds were getting, besides meal, chopped horseflesh and boiled rabbit, in addition to such animal food as the parents could collect for them, the latter evidently settled that the meat ration must be increased, and the results were disastrous. One morning the old Cranes were found breaking up a half-grown Moorhen, and feeding the young with such pieces as they could wrench off, for, of course, they did not use their feet. I dared not confine the Cranes and found it impossible to catch up the young Teal with their parents, so I had to leave them to chance. It was sad to see the fine broods diminishing daily, and eventually I lost nearly forty ducklings of the above species. Besides being very aquatic,

these Cranes, even when adult, are considerable consumers of animal food. They have nearly cleared the water within their reach of Swan-mussels, and several times they have been seen to capture Eels, though they leave the Roach and Perch alone.

Twice the old male, who is always the successful fisherman, whether of Mussels or Eels, has been seen feeding the young birds with bits which he managed to pinch off the carcase of an Eel, finally gulping down the remainder himself. On August 5 he was seen to bring a live Eel ashore, and after clumsy efforts to kill it, "handed" the fish to one of the young ones which came up, which swallowed it, still wriggling, just as a Stork might have done.

It is well known that Cranes are devoted parents while the young are helpless. I was struck this summer by the intelligence shown by my birds. If a cold wind was blowing they were clever at finding some shelter for the chicks, under the lee of a belt of growing sedge. If a young one was unable to swallow a morsel of food that had been held out to it the old one would take it back and break it into fragments, and then offer the small bits one by one. The juvenile Cranes, even when nearly full grown, uttered almost incessantly a low piping note, quite out of proportion to the size of the bird. On September 5 one of the young Cranes flew out of the enclosure, so I caught them up and shortened the primary feathers. They are, I think, undoubtedly male and female.

By the same date the fawn colour of their plumage had been splashed with white, and the new feathers appeared rapidly during the succeeding weeks, so that by the end of November the general coloration of the young birds had become white, with a few fawn feathers here and there; the plumes, some black, others a rich fawn; the head and neck still fawn; and, of course, there is no sign yet of the crimson forehead patch. I have confined the young in an enclosure well out of sight of the old birds, and they are walked into a shed at night as a precaution, though even in this present inclement season they appear quite indifferent to the weather.

It has been noticed that in captivity some of the Cranes do not moult their primaries (which are shed altogether like those of waterfowl) every year. My Mantchurian Cranes, though they did cast

their smaller feathers, did not moult the primaries this autumn. I am sorry that I have no note whether they moulted these feathers last year, but I have little doubt that they did so.

OBITUARY

MISS R. ALDERSON

Only those who have been members of the Avicultural Society from its early days or who are intimately acquainted with its inner history, can appreciate fully the magnitude of the blow which has fallen so suddenly upon it by the removal from its midst of Miss R. Alderson. Her connexion with the Society dates from April, 1896, though it is the name of her elder sister, Miss E. M. Alderson (now Lady Maud Robinson) which appears in the lists of members in Vols. III and IV. A glance through the back volumes of our Magazine will show the variety of the subjects upon which she wrote, and the many different classes of birds which she kept in her aviaries or tamed round her home ; but our Society probably owes most of all to her wise and thoughtful suggestions made during the many years she served so faithfully as one of its officers. She was a member of the Council for three terms of office—from 1900 to 1905, from 1907 to 1902, and from 1913 to 1916. During the last dark years of the War, in spite of many pressing calls, she most kindly undertook the duties of Hon. Business Secretary ; this post she held until compelled to relinquish it owing to ill-health, as announced in the Magazine for last November.

Although it entailed a long journey, often at most inconvenient times, Miss Alderson never missed attendance at a Council meeting, unless unavoidably prevented : and as the writer can testify from having been present on many occasions, she always seemed to suggest just what was needed for the advancement of the Society, whose welfare she had so much at heart. She seemed to share with Royalty the faculty of being able to say and do the proper thing just at the right time, indeed it is very largely due to her ability as Hon. Business Secretary during the War that our Society has emerged in such a flourishing state to-day.

Possessed of a wonderful love of Nature, due in the first place, as she herself has told us, to the early teaching of her mother, and endowed with a gentle manner which speedily gained the confidence of wild creatures, she stood in the first rank of lady aviculturists. Her first paper seems to have been written about her Shamah, and was printed in the Magazine for June, 1899 ; this was followed by others on Parrots and Parrakeets, Finches and Waxbills, Cranes and Quails, to mention only a few of the subjects utilized. Her favourite group of birds were the Doves and Pigeons, of which probably no other private person has kept more species, and most of her writings deal with these birds. In 1911 she wrote a little book entitled *My Foreign Doves and Pigeons*, in which some forty species are described, all of which she had kept; this is largely illustrated by many excellent photographs, which she herself took for the purpose. She gained six of the Society's Medals for breeding the Lavender Finch, Orange-cheeked Waxbill, Zenaida, White-fronted, Rufous, and Solitary Doves.

Miss Alderson was always most kind and anxious to help others. To give but one instance during the War, she offered to look after the birds of any one who was away on National Service ; she had a very large circle of correspondents among those whom she had so freely aided with her extensive knowledge of bird matters. All those who had the privilege of knowing her personally will sincerely mourn the loss of a true friend, and will always cherish the memory of her example as a great inspiration. The world is indeed the poorer without her presence, for surely can it be said that she spent her life in doing good to others.

T. H. NEWMAN.

NOTES ON THE BIRDS OF THE BALEARIC ISLANDS

BY PHILIP GOSSE, M.B.O.U.

(Continued from the December Number, p. 245.)

**Carduelis carduelis*.—The Goldfinch is, perhaps, the commonest bird in Mallorca. The woods and meadows abound with them ; the same applies to Iviza and Formentera. I have been unable to determine

whether the Balearic Goldfinch is the same as the Spanish and North African race, *C. c. africanus*, or whether it is more nearly allied to *C. c. tschusii* of Sardinia and Corsica. The Balearic Goldfinch has a remarkably small wing, 71–73 mm. in those I have examined. It is, however, not so dark on the back as *C. c. parva*, the Atlantic island form. If it is not *C. c. africanus* (there are very few specimens of this bird available for comparison) it may be a new race worthy of a distinct name.

**Serinus canarius serinus*.—The Serin Finch is fairly common in all the islands, amongst the pines, singing furiously while hunting for food amongst the cones.

**Passer domesticus domesticus*.—Common. I failed to see *P. montanus*, however.

**Fringilla cælebs*.—Although the Chaffinch swarms in Mallorca, I did not see a single specimen in the other two islands. The song struck me as being much inferior to that of the British bird. Further examination may possibly show that this bird is identical with the Corsican Chaffinch (*F. c. tyrrhenica*). In any case it is not the typical species.

**Acanthis cannabina mediterranea*.—The Mediterranean Linnet is common in all three islands.

**Emberiza calandra calandra*.—The Corn Bunting is plentiful, particularly at Mallorca, but very difficult to get near to. It lives in small flocks in the open meadows and is very wary.

Emberiza hortulana.—What appeared to be an Ortolan Bunting was seen at Santa Eulalia on April 12.

**Galerida theklae polatzcki*.—Polatzek's Crested Lark was common at Alcudia in the first week of April. One specimen had a well-formed egg in its cloaca. A few were seen in the neighbourhood of the town of Iviza, but none at Santa Eulalia. They were present in fair numbers in Formentera. This Lark was originally described from the Island of Iviza.

**Calandrella brachydactyla brachydactyla*.—A few Short-toed Larks were seen and one obtained in the marshes at Alcudia on April 7, and a few seen near the city of Iviza in the island of that name.

**Motacilla flava cinerocapilla*.—This form of the Blue-headed

Wagtail is very common in the marshes and pine-woods bordering on the sea at Alcudia. Many of them seemed to spend their whole time amongst the branches of the stunted pines.

**Anthus trivialis trivialis*.—One Tree Pipit was seen at Alcudia, and two seen and one shot at Iviza on April 16. The latter turned out to be a female.

**Anthus campestris campestris*.—Two Tawny Pipits were seen together at Alcudia on April 4, close to the shore. Both proved to be males. This Pipit was fairly common at Alcudia. A few were met with in Iviza, mostly close to the town. Others were also noticed in Formentera.

**Petronia petronia*.—Two specimens of the Rock Sparrow were obtained in Iviza. I am doubtful whether they belong to the typical race or to the Sardinian subspecies (*P. p. hellmayri*).

**Parus major corsus*.—The Corsican Great Tit was common in all the islands, and particularly plentiful in the pine-woods on the mountains. Its note is quite different to that of the British Great Tit, and on first hearing it I failed to recognize what bird the call belonged to. No other species of Tit was seen. It must be mentioned that this Titmouse from the Balearic Islands has been separated as distinct from *P. m. corsus* by A. von Jordans (*Falco halle* 9, 1913, pp. 43-4), but more material is required before this point can be satisfactorily settled. In the meantime I think it wiser to use the name here employed.

**Lanius senator badius*.—I saw one Sardinian Woodchat Shrike in the pine-woods at Alcudia. Later at Santa Eulalia, Iviza, it was fairly numerous. None were seen in Formentera. The occurrence of the Sardinian Woodchat in the Balearic Islands has not previously been recorded, and is of considerable interest.

**Sylvia communis communis*.—The first Whitethroat was seen on April 8 at Alcudia. Not identified in the other islands.

Sylvia curruca.—The only Lesser Whitethroat was seen at Alcudia on April 7.

Sylvia atricapilla.—The Blackcap was one of the commonest birds to be seen at Alcudia; males greatly outnumbered the females. Not nearly so plentiful in Iviza

WHAT THE COUNTRY LOOKS LIKE:
Snapshots in the Balearic Islands.



Photo by H. Willford.

Generosity of P. Gosse.

BIRD COLLECTING IN OLIVE ORCHARD, ALCUDIA, MALLORCA.



Photo by H. Willford.

Generosity of P. Gosse.

ALCUDIA BAY, MALLORCA.

To face p. 10.

Sylvia melanocephala melanocephala.—What I believe to have been a pair of Sardinian Warblers was seen and carefully watched in a public garden near the city of Palma on April 2. Although not obtained they were of course the typical species.

**Sylvia subalpina subalpina*.—The only subalpine Warbler met with was a male which I obtained in Formentera on April 19 amongst some thick undergrowth; its movements strongly reminded me of the Dartford Warbler.

**Cisticola cisticola cisticola*.—The Fantail Warbler is not common, and I only met it amongst the very tall grass in the marshes near to Alcudia. When disturbed it flies straight up to some one hundred feet in the air, rising by a series of jerks, singing the while a shrill squeaking song.

**Phylloscopus trochilus*.—Both the Wood Warbler and the Willow Warbler were fairly common in the islands.

**Phylloscopus sibilatrix*.

Turdus merula.—The Blackbird is fairly numerous in Mallorca and Iviza, though very wild. Not observed in Formentera.

**Ruticilla phæniceus phæniceus*.—The Redstart was first seen at Santa Eulalia on April 12. It was common in Formentera.

**Erithacus rubecula rubecula*.—On April 4 I procured a hen of the South European Robin at Alcudia, Mallorca, the only specimen seen by us in any of the islands.

Luscinia luscinia.—The only Nightingale seen was at Santa Eulalia on April 14 in the afternoon. It was singing a few notes. It was not obtained. It is therefore impossible to say whether it belonged to the typical or the Eastern race.

**Saxicola rubicola rubicola*.—The Stonechat is common in all three islands in April, though in Mallorca we saw only males.

**Saxicola rubetra rubetra*.—The first Whinchats were seen on April 14 at Santa Eulalia, Iviza, but not many; a few days later we found them to be numerous in Formentera. These birds were certainly migrating.

**Ænanthe ænanthe*.—Two Wheatears seen for the first time on April 8 at Alcudia, Mallorca. One specimen which was obtained proved to be the Greenland Wheatear (*Æ. æ. leucorrhœa*), doubtless passing through the island on migration. Wheatears were more

plentiful in Iviza a few days later, and also present in Formentera. Two obtained from these islands seem to belong to the typical form, *Æ. æ. ænanthe*, but this point is not yet decided, the adult male from Iviza appearing to have a great deal of white on the forehead.

Muscicapa grisola.—One pair of Spotted Flycatchers was identified in Formentera on April 18. I did not succeed in procuring a specimen, which almost certainly was *M. grisola grisola*.

Muscicapa atricapilla.—Mr. Willford tells me he saw a male Pied Flycatcher on April 19 in Formentera. The bird was not obtained, and is here named binomially, but doubtless belonged to the typical species.

Hirundo rustica.—Swallows were plentiful at all the islands, but not in particularly large companies. The majority were probably *H. rustica rustica* on migration, but none were secured.

Chelidon urbica.—One specimen only of a House Martin was seen on our visit, and that was on April 15, at Santa Eulalia, Iviza.

(To be continued.)

AVICULTURAL NOTES

AN ARRIVAL OF SOUTH AFRICAN BIRDS.—The importation of birds from South Africa is worthy of special notice, because even in pre-War days all birds from there were decidedly scarce. Mr. Hamlyn asked me to go and see his collection on arrival, and it was a great pleasure to note the wonderfully good condition of the birds after their long voyage. The collection consisted of some four or five Grey Touracous (*Schizorhis concolor*), a species probably never before imported; some half-dozen of the very pretty Red-capped Larks (*Tephrocorys cinerea*) new to aviculture; some Redwing Francolins (*Francolinus levaillanti*); Coqui Francolins (*F. coqui*); Cape and Rock Buntings; a cage-full of Greater Amethyst Sunbirds; and another containing a large number of Violet-eared and Black-cheeked Waxbills, Ruddy Firefinches, and Blue-breasted Waxbills. Alario Finches, noted for their sweet song, were present in some numbers, as were also Paradise, Pintail, and Queen Whydahs, and the interesting little Scaly-fronted Weaver; I must not omit to mention a cage full of Rosy-faced Lovebirds.

Mr. Hamlyn is to be congratulated on having imported a very nice collection, which, by the way, he is offering at quite moderate prices.

D. SETH-SMITH.

LATE BREEDING OF PARTRIDGE.—A partridge was shot at Long Melford, Suffolk, by Mr. Chas. Row on November 1, a 1919 *bird* with a perfectly shelled egg in it ready for laying! This beats a record of hen Partridge on eggs, September 9, in same district some years ago. —ALLEN SILVER.

THE EGG OF THE HOODED CRANE.—A Hooded Crane, alas! a widow, laid two eggs on May 3 and 6, and attempted to incubate. The egg is large for the size of the bird, and is handsomely marked with pale yellowish-brown and leaden-grey on a pale buff ground. I have not seen any record that this Crane has laid in captivity before. —W. H. ST. QUINTIN.

REVIEWS

HOMING WITH THE BIRDS. By GENE STRATTON PORTER. Illustrated. London: John Murray. 10s. 6d. net.

Any book from the pen of Mrs. Gene Stratton Porter will appeal to Nature-lovers as only her writings can. *Homing with the Birds* abounds in interesting details of bird-life in the Limberlost, recorded by one who from her childhood was gifted with a rare sympathy with all wild things. But from a photographic point of view this book is distinctly disappointing. Most of the birds depicted in the full-page illustrations are either out of focus or are obscured by worrying surroundings. In nearly all there is a lack of gradation in the plumage.

Obviously many of the subjects were photographed in bright sunlight, hence the lack of soft detail in the results. In many cases the sitter has been much too near the camera, in consequence of which the surroundings are exaggerated and overpower the bird. This is particularly noticeable in the male Indigo Finch (p. 74).

There is a mystery surrounding the portrait of a Cardinal singing (p. 214). Except for the black chin, the plumage of this scarlet bird has come out pure white! The same ghostly result has been obtained

in the courtship of the Cardinals (p. 258). But perhaps, in this instance one bird turned pale with emotion!

Mrs. Porter gives the British Sparrow a truly terrible character. We in England do not hold him up as a model bird, but we have a sneaking liking for him because he is such a typical John Bull. We wish, as heartily as Mrs. Porter does, that we had kept this scapegrace at home. Our British cheeks are suffused with honest blushes when we read of his awful depravity and of his bloodthirsty cannibal instincts.

EMMA L. TURNER.

THE AMATEUR MENAGERIE CLUB YEAR BOOK, 1918-19. pp. 108. Illustrated.

The Editorial apology for the size of this Year Book seems to us to be scarcely necessary; still the intention to increase it next year must be sympathetically received by all amateur naturalists, on the basis that one cannot have too much of a good thing. It is well illustrated with photogravures and ornamented with excellent letterpress sketches, the work of the versatile Editor, Mr. G. Tyrwhitt Drake. The paper and printing are good, and our only complaint is of a somewhat slipshod editing that has passed certain errors in syntax and orthography that might easily and with advantage have been avoided. The actual utility of the book is not impaired; it contains the sort of information that we should all seek, i.e. facts as perceived by the observer.

Wild Life in the Balkans, by J. C. Lindlay, with its full and careful notes on bird-life, will appeal strongly to every ornithologist. The remaining articles are all descriptive accounts of actual zoological experiments, illuminating by their success or in their failure showing the way to better results. Mr. Gillespie, of Edinburgh, has been working out the theory of fresh air versus artificial warmth, in many cases with great success. We think that more exercise would improve the results with the Antelopes. That Crown Cranes and Flamingoes fail in Edinburgh surprises us, as at Manchester the former do well with a mere shed—the latter being absolutely without cover, provided they have plenty of room for exercise and ice-free water. He draws attention to the joy of the Penguins and Polar Bears in hot sunshine,

but this is not surprising, as the Arctic heat radiated from the snow is intense. Carl Hagenback noted years ago that the Polar Bears lay stretched in the full glare of sunshine that gave Leopards heat apoplexy.

Miss Walker writes well on her Capuchins; they are most interesting pets and in our experience almost as clever as Chimpanzees. It is sad to see them going off, even after four years, with rickets, or rather a form of tuberculosis; and we think that if she gave a small box in which to sleep, a cage with room for exercise, and access to fresh air, and took away the hot-water bottle, that trouble might be avoided.

We cannot close this notice without special reference to Dr. Butter's article on his Chimpanzee "Anthony", which should insure a place for this volume in every zoological library in the world. Dr. Butter for seven years kept his Chimpanzee in the open air without artificial heat, raising it from puny childhood to perfect adolescence. He gives us all the details of his successful experiments—he has revolutionized the theory of anthropoid management, and wonderful to relate he is quite unconscious that he has done something wonderful.

GEORGE JENNISON.

A HANDBOOK OF THE VERTEBRATE FAUNA OF NORTH WALES. By H. E. FORREST. Witherby & Co. pp. 106. 6s. net.

North Wales is too large an area for any man to work alone; consequently, Mr. Forrest, when in 1907 he published his *Vertebrate Fauna*, had to depend largely on correspondents and matter which had appeared elsewhere. He has now produced an epitome of his former work, bringing knowledge up to date. A number of species have been added, justly so with the birds, but in the portions dealing with mammals and reptiles the author has been a little too anxious to swell the list. There is no proof that the large Bat seen by Mr. Bolam was a Greater Horseshoe; that, on the evidence of a washed-up vertebra, the Blue Whale occurs in Welsh waters; nor that the identification of the Sand Lizards was correct; they were seen, but not critically examined. The added birds are on firmer foundation; the most important are the Barred Warbler, Willow Tit, Blue-winged Teal, Crane, and Great Skua. Dr. Ticehurst and Mr. Stanford recognized many unusual birds on migration at Bardsey, and their notes will prove to sceptical workers

that West Coast migration is more important than is usually admitted. Judging by the Ortolan, Wryneck, and Black Redstart, many birds which do not nest far north in Scandinavia reach the western seaboard, almost certainly crossing England on autumn migration.

On the strength of Mr. R. W. Jones's dates Mr. Forrest might include the Black Redstart as a regular winter visitor; indeed, many of his occasional visitors are far more regular than he suspects. He has corrected his extraordinary statement that the White Wagtail does not travel through Wales on autumn passage; he cannot have visited North Wales frequently in autumn. Neither, evidently, is he aware how regular are the movements of the Manx Shearwater and Richardson's Skua, or he would have made a bolder assertion and not founded his remarks upon a few scattered references.

No useful purpose is served by advertising that there still exist breeding places of the Chough and other rare birds, which have struggle enough to avoid the raids of collectors. Those who for long have been aware of these breeding haunts have refrained from even mentioning them, and have kept back their information simply for the sake of the birds.

As a compilation there is much useful matter in the Handbook, and it is a convenient size to take on a holiday trip; the most important notes that have appeared in *British Birds*, the *Zoologist*, and in books that have been published since 1907, are here gathered together. There is, however, little original matter, and in a few cases information from correspondents needs sifting.

T. A. COWARD.

PHOTOGRAPHY FOR BIRD-LOVERS. By BENTLEY BEETHAM, F.Z.S.
London: Witherby & Co.

The scope of this book may best be described by quoting the author's own words—"It is not destined to serve as a textbook of photography, but rather as a manual for the application of that art to a given purpose—that of bird photography." In the 120 odd pages Mr. Beetham gives a vast amount of information, commencing with a discourse upon the outfit required for bird photography, and following with a description of the various methods employed in securing pictorial records of the feathered folk.

It will probably come as a surprise to some readers to hear that a stand-camera is more suitable than a hand-camera for photographing amongst the top-most branches of a tree—this work being considered by the author as most enjoyable, although at times “the lack of a third prehensile member is sorely felt”.

Chapter V on “Photography by the Stalking Method” is of special interest, revealing the patience that is necessary for obtaining successful results, and how easily an unfortunate movement may mean utter failure. When approaching a ground-nesting bird, such as a Grouse, the novice would probably creep up from the rear; but if we follow Mr. Beetham’s advice we shall do just the opposite, zig-zagging about and even passing the bird before we take a photograph, so as to encourage the sitter in the belief that it has not been seen.

After reading the chapter entitled “Rope-work on the Cliff-face”, for which both nerve and strength are necessary adjuncts, the final chapter on photographing birds in captivity will come as a refreshing balm to the more sedate and elderly camera enthusiast.

Of the eighteen illustrations all are so good that it is difficult to discriminate between them. That of the Oyster-catcher’s nest includes the bird’s habitat in the picture, while that of a hiding tent screened by reeds, in which we are told “the author is seen peeping through the back of the hide”, is an example of perfect camouflage.

It took the present writer a quarter of an hour to find him, and even then he did not succeed unaided.

W. S. BERRIDGE.

MELANISM IN WEAVERS

DEAR DR. RENSHAW,—As regards Mr. Shore-Baily’s query, may I say that I have often come across cases of melanism in *Quelea quelea*? These birds are imported into France in thousands from French West Africa, and are always plentiful in bird-shops; in a cage of say a hundred birds one can generally find one or two dark or even all-black specimens.

I think this melanism is a result of the improper food the birds are given just after they have been caught and during the journey. If they happen to be moulting at the time, when properly cared for

later on the same birds assume normal plumage at the next moulting. I noticed the same among the Crimson and Napoleon Weavers in winter dress ; they were black instead of grey.—Yours very sincerely,

DELACOUR.

HYBRID CONURES

DEAR DR. GRAHAM RENSHAW,—I expect the Conures in your correspondent's possession are hybrids. A large number of hybrid Conures of Patagonian extraction were offered for sale some months ago on the disposal of a private collection. I should think their pedigree has been lost, if it was ever known.—Yours sincerely,

TAVISTOCK.

PATAGONIAN CONURES AND RED-BILLED WEAVERS

DEAR DR. RENSHAW,—I think that my large Conures must be *C. byroni*, and that the description in Mr. Seth-Smith's book must be taken from hybrids between this bird and the smaller kind. I have not the least doubt but that the two varieties would interbreed freely, as my bird is very friendly with one of the smaller ones, and I should not be surprised to see them go to nest this spring. The difference in their appearance when they are side by side is striking ; it is quite as great as it is between the Mealy and Red Rosellas. I am afraid that my other specimen is never going to be much good. He is getting barer of feathers on the neck, throat, and wing coverts than ever. I don't know whether he is plucking himself or whether it is some form of disease, but one would think that he would have some difficulty in plucking his own throat.

With regard to the Weavers, I hardly think that the colour of the bill has anything to do with sex. The three yellow-billed black specimens have now moulted out into their natural colour, but their beaks are now red. I shall be interested to see if these birds return to their abnormal colour at their next moult.—Truly yours,

WM. SHORE-BAILY.



Photo by Commander S. F. Rotch, R.N.

THE VICTIM.

“ And I beheld and saw them one by one
Pass and become as nothing in the night.”

To face p. 19.

THE AVICULTURAL MAGAZINE

BEING THE JOURNAL OF
THE AVICULTURAL SOCIETY
FOR THE STUDY OF
FOREIGN & BRITISH BIRDS
IN FREEDOM & CAPTIVITY

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THE PLUMAGE TRADE

By WILLOUGHBY DEWAR (Hon. Secretary, Plumage Bill Group).

Before the War some thirty-five million wild birds' skins were annually imported into this country. They served no useful purpose whatever, beyond employing a little sweated labour in London's East End, and a little more alien capital. Englishmen, one is glad to know, have little part in this disgusting traffic.

These millions of lovely feathered creatures were simply being slaughtered to adorn the hats of women who never gave a thought to the butchery necessitated by fashion. A Bill was brought before the House of Commons in 1914 to put an end to this horror by prohibiting further imports of plumage other than that of the Ostrich, Eider Duck, and birds killed for food, excepting such specimens as might be needed for scientific purposes. The Bill was supported by humane men of all parties, but was virtually wrecked by the traders' opposition, and finally shelved on account of the War.

Once again an effort is being made to stop this commerce, which offends all those who delight in the feathered world. A Group has been formed in London to demand another Bill, and to watch its passage into law. Sir Charles Hobhouse, Bart., P.C., who has long taken an active interest in the matter, is President, and Lieut-Col. Swinburne, of 23 Eaton Place, S.W. 1, is Treasurer. Funds are

urgently required, for the trade will again have to be fought, and the general public will have to be roused from its apathy.

Those who love living birds, whether caged or free, must revolt instinctively at seeing a bird's dead body, or any part of it, flaunted in a woman's hat as though it had no more significance than a bunch of artificial flowers or a knot of ribbon. Many, however, are still unaware of the full horror of what they see. It is during the breeding season that most of the birds are butchered, for it is then that they have their nuptial dress and are most beautiful. The young, consequently, are left to starve. Often the marauders do not trouble to kill outright; the shoulder-tufts of the Egret (the "ospreys" of the trade) are torn from the living bird; wings of Albatrosses are cut from them whilst alive, and the birds are left to bleed to death.

The story of these foul details could be multiplied indefinitely, but one must turn to another point. Whole species of birds are being exterminated, and the result of their disappearance must be calamitous to the world at large. One firm advertises for sale the feathers of the Vulture, and the Vulture, as is well known, is essential as a scavenger in many lands. Other birds, equally victimized, are necessary to check the ravages of insects and noxious grubs. The trader and his agents spare none.

So well is the importance of a rich bird life recognized that in many countries, such as India and Australia, the export of all plumage is forbidden; but smugglers defy the law and it can only be enforced if we in the British Isles legislate against import. Sir Auckland Geddes has promised a Plumage Bill on the lines required, but no definite date has yet been given for its introduction, and it is sure to be opposed by certain Members of Parliament on whom the trade has put pressure. We therefore call on all bird-lovers to take action. Individually or collectively let them insist on the Government taking action with firmness and without delay. They, too, can approach Members of the House of Commons. They can at once make it known that they desire a Bill making it illegal to import, buy, sell, or wear the skin and feathers of birds slaughtered for millinery purposes, and that the Bill must be passed without damaging amendments.

Should readers care to address me at 8 Kenilworth Court, Putney, S.W. 15, I shall be only too glad to furnish them with any further information they may desire.

THE AVICULTURAL PHOENIX

By H. E. ROGERS

I was pleased, indeed, to see the current number of the *Avicultural Magazine*; it is more than interesting.

As an illustration of the gradual return to normal conditions, I cannot do better than give a rough list of some of the more important specimens which have passed through my hands the last three months, and have been sold to various zoological societies, menageries, and private collectors; 2 Sun Bitterns, 1 Naked-throated Bell-bird, 1 Convex-billed Hornbill, 2 Egrets, 8 Scarlet Ibises, 12 Curassows, 5 Toco Toucans, 2 Crown Cranes, 2 Japanese Cranes, 1 Black and White West African Sparrow-hawk, 1 Amazonian Roseate Spoonbill, 5 Redbilled Tree Ducks, 2 Bahama Ducks, 6 Red-shouldered Teal, 10 Blue-winged Teal, 2 Mandarin Ducks, 6 Rosybill Ducks, 3 Falcated Teal, 5 Maned Geese, 3 Indian Peahens, 4 Bronze-winged Pigeons, 4 Diamond Doves, 8 Macaws, 1 Yellow-spotted Amazon, 1 Lilacina Amazon, 250 Amazons of various species (Bluefronts, Festive, Orange-winged, Diademed, Greencheeked, Yellow-fronted, Yellow-cheeked, Yellow-shouldered, Bodin's, Gold-naped, Guatemalan, Mealy, Salle's, Vinaceous), the predominating species being the Blue-fronted, Festive, and Orange-winged forms, 23 Accra Grey Parrots, 61 Congo Grey Parrots, 5 White-breasted Caiques, 2 Black-headed Caiques, 8 Guianan Parrotlets, 16 Tovi, 50 Yellow-winged and 65 Tui Brotogerys, 3 Short-tailed Parrots, 5 Pionus, 2 Jendaya Conures, 12 Banded Parrakeets, 4 Blossomhead Parrakeets, 80 Rock Parrots (*Alexandrina*), 3 Senegal Parrots, 4 Rose-ringed Parrakeets, 58 Ring-necked Parrakeets, 20 Crested and Pope Cardinals, 10 Redrumps, 2 Port Lincolns, 6 Pennants, 4 Stanley, 6 Rosehill and 3 Barnard's Broadtails, 20 Cockatiels, 4 Cassicus, 8 Rock Mynahs, 6 Blue Budgerigars, 20 Olive Budgerigars, 15 Olive and Blue Budgerigars, 20 Yellow with white

tails and flights, 200 Green Budgerigars, 25 Zebra Finches, 21 Saffron Finches, 16 Green Singing Finches, 21 White-throated Finches, 100 Java Sparrows, Avadavats, Spice Birds, and Mannikins, 30 Scaly-fronted Finches, 25 Red-headed Finches, 20 St. Helena Waxbills, 15 Piping Bullfinches.

The above all concerns Aviculture, but to demonstrate the point more fully I may add that I have been instrumental in providing one of the Allied zoological societies with a magnificent male Lion, and have further orders which I feel confident of being able to execute. During the same period I have delivered to other zoological societies animals as follows: 3 Chimpanzees, 5 Woolly Lagotherix, 6 Douroucoulis, 18 Capuchins, 8 Naked-eared Squirrel Monkeys, 30 Marmosets, 8 Tamarins, 3 Red Titi Monkeys, 3 Spider Monkeys, 1 Red-bellied *Cercopithecus*, 1 Black Mangabey, 8 Sooty Mangabeys, 10 Baboons, 19 Rhesus Monkeys, 1 Lapunda Ape, 5 Mandrills, 7 Caratrix Monkeys, 2 Grivet Monkeys, 3 Mona Monkeys, 3 Patas Monkeys, 1 Slow Loris, 8 American Pocket Mice, 3 Ocelots, 1 Tigrine Cat, 7 various Agoutis, 3 Pacas, 1 Spotted-necked Otter, 6 Coati-mundis, 40 Tabulated and Carbonaria Tortoises, 60 Scorpion Mud Terrapins, 16 Greek Tortoises, 1 Cayman, 4 Giant Beetles, 2 Bird-eating Spiders or Tarantulas, 3 Congo Millipedes, and various Lizards, Slow-worms, Snakes, Salamanders, Pythons, Chameleons, and Axolotls.

From the above it would appear to me that our Magazine, at any rate, is in for interesting and busy times. I have just received important letters from one of our noted Australian contributors, also from Dar-es-Salaam (late German East Africa), and from the Amazons, which all foreshadow new business.

COLOUR-CHANGE IN BIRDS

By ARTHUR G. BUTLER, Ph.D.

In the December number for last year an Australian bird-lover remarks that "Every aviculturist, of course, knows that most birds with scarlet feathers or a colour of which scarlet would be a component part, like orange, will lose it altogether during the first moult, or at least change the red to shades ranging down from

yellow to a dirty pink or creamy white ". As instances, our friend mentions the Linnet, the Red Cardinal, the Orange Weaver, the Sepoy Finch, the Scarlet Tanager, and one or two Australian birds.

We all know that the Linnet and its allies, among which I certainly should include the Rose Finches, lose their rose and crimson colouring at the first moult. The Pine Grosbeak and Crossbills do likewise, and the American Nonpareil Finch loses its scarlet underparts in patches, becoming more and more yellow at each successive moult if kept in an indoor aviary or flight-cage not exposed to bright sunlight, and if not supplied with an abundance of living insect-food. If, however, it is removed to a sunny outdoor aviary and given additional natural food, the red colouring is gradually restored at each successive moult (I still have three skins of specimens formerly living in my aviaries which indicate these facts).

Touching the Virginian Cardinal, the Orange Weaver, and the Scarlet Tanager, my experience differs wholly from that of our Australian friend. I have had three cock Virginian Cardinals, two of which I have kept in large cages and the third in an outdoor aviary, and they all retained their bright colouring to the end of their lives; so also did my two male Scarlet Tanagers, which lived in a flight-cage for over eighteen years. As regards Orange Weavers, I have remarked more than once that their colouring tends to deepen with age. I have never known them to become paler, and I have kept many examples; indeed, among the twelve skins of the species which I have preserved I have five males in breeding plumage, not one of which shows any deterioration in colour. The same is true with regard to the Grey Cardinals, the Military Starlings, and many other birds; they retain their colouring perfectly. It is true that a pair of Pintailed Nonpareils in my possession became melanistic after their second moult, and the abdomen of the male changed from scarlet to yellow; but I have seen similar examples in the British Museum series, which apparently were obtained from collectors, so that neither captivity, lack of sunlight, nor sufficient live insect-food could have caused the change in them.

I do not think our friend should assume, because "colour is produced by interference of light waves", that feathers contain no

pigment. On the contrary, I think the assertion that blue colouring in birds is not due to pigment but to structural characters implies distinctly that some other colours are due to pigment. I have never yet seen it stated that feathers do not contain pigment; it is absolutely certain that the scales on the wings of butterflies do, as anyone can prove by soaking the wings of a Brimstone Butterfly in warm water in which soda has been dissolved, when he will see the whole of the yellow colouring precipitated, and the wing can then be dipped into blue dye, which the scales will absorb (I have myself done this).

Because the red colouring in the wings of Touracous is stated by various trustworthy naturalists to be soluble in water, and especially in water more or less saturated with an alkaline reagent, it by no means follows that other birds of red plumage must necessarily be similarly affected. As I have pointed out, whereas in the case of the butterflies the colouring of most scales is perfectly soluble, other scales appear to be sealed up and do not release their colouring; it is conceivable, therefore, that the pigment in one bird's plumage may find its way out of the feathers, whereas in another bird it may be strictly confined therein.

It used to be asserted that birds with red in their plumage became dulled and even melanistic if fed upon hemp; I proved to my own entire satisfaction that this was quite a mistake. I kept three species of Grey Cardinals (*Paroaria*) and fed all three with a seed mixture consisting of canary, oats, and hemp, upon which they did remarkably well, and the skins of those which I preserved would compare very favourably with the examples shot by collectors and now in the National Collection.

I kept mealworms in a large tin with a mixture of bran, middlings, and bits of old sacking, and I never knew the colouring of any bird to be affected by feeding upon them. At the commencement of my avicultural studies I used to put a dead bird, mouse, or piece of fat into the mealworm tin; the result of this was that I went one morning to the tin and found an atrocious evil-smelling mass of putrescence which I had to bury; the worms themselves were all rotten. If fed regularly upon minced raw beef, I have found that most insectivorous birds get a bad attack of diarrhœa, and if the same diet is persisted

in they suffer from fits, cramp, extreme debility, and speedily die ; a scrap or two occasionally to predaceous birds is not injurious, but small vertebrates are always preferable, because they are natural food.

NOTES ON THE BIRDS OF THE BALEARIC ISLANDS

By PHILIP GOSSE, M.B.O.U.

(Concluded from the January Number, p. 12.)

**Iynx torquilla torquilla*.—The Wryneck was not seen in Mallorca. One obtained at Santa Eulalia, Iviza, on April 14. This was the first I saw, and proved to be a female. Another was procured in Formentera on April 18. The birds in question appear to belong to typical race and not to the Sardinian form (*I. t. tschusii*). The male has a wing measurement of 88 mm. and the female a wing of 90 mm.

Cypselus apus.—Swifts were common in the city of Palma at the beginning of April. Also seen in Formentera.

Upupa epops.—I saw one Hoopoe near Alcudia on April 6. This was the only one seen in the islands.

**Querquedula querquedula*.—A few Garganey frequented the stream at Santa Eulalia and one was shot by Mr. Willford.

Botaurus stellaris stellaris.—A Common Bittern, a female, was obtained by Mr. Willford at the mouth of the Creek at Santa Eulalia, Iviza, on April 15.

**Ædicnemus ædicnemus ædicnemus*.—Two Stone Curlews were seen in Formentera and one procured. Not observed in the other islands.

Totanus totanus.—A Common Redshank was seen but not obtained in the salt marshes in Formentera on April 19.

**Totanus hypoleucus*.—A few Common Sandpipers were seen at Alcudia, and on the stream at Santa Eulalia, and in the salt marshes in Formentera.

**Helodromus ochropus*.—Green Sandpipers were seen along the seashore at Alcudia and Santa Eulalia.

**Egialitis alexandrina alexandrina*.—The Kentish Plover was common in the marshes and along the seashore.

Columba livia.—We saw a flock of seven Rock Doves flying over the high cliffs at La Mola, Formentera. Probably these belonged to the typical race and not to the North African form (*C. l. schimperi*).



Drawn by the Royal Geographical Society.

In the foregoing short list I have been careful only to name birds of which I obtained specimens, or of whose identity I felt fairly satisfied. Amongst those that were seen but not identified were :—

A Vulture, seen at Alcudia, Mallorca.

Several Harriers, which quartered the marsh in the same place. Their backs were a ruddy brown colour, tips of wings black, wing coverts light brown ; while the undersurface of the birds appeared to be white.



Photo by H. Willford.

Generosity of P. Gosse.



Photo by H. Willford.

Generosity of P. Gosse.

WHAT THE COUNTRY LOOKS LIKE:
Views of Sta. Eulalia, Iviza, Balearic Islands.

[To face p. 26.]

There were also several Kites, which seemed to be black all over.

Kestrels were common at Alcudia and also in Iviza, and were the only birds found nesting.

Several flocks of Duck were seen at some distance in the Alcudia marshes; they looked like Common Mallard, flying, but were too far off to be identified with certainty. On one occasion I saw a Heron in the marshes near Alcudia.

One Snipe was flushed on the stream at Santa Eulalia, Iviza, but on account of the people about it was not safe to shoot at it.

Mr. Willford reported seeing a Golden Oriole on the day we left Formentera, April 20. We saw surprisingly few sea-birds, and I hope on another opportunity to make a list of them.

While waiting for our steamer to return from Iviza I saw a Sedge Warbler and a Marsh Warbler in the swamp just outside the town, but do not feel justified in placing them in the list as I did not get specimens of either.

It is perhaps worth noting that we did not meet with a single example of the Song Thrush nor of the Wren. Of course many more specimens could have been procured, but I have always made it a rule when collecting in foreign countries never to shoot a bird until I have examined it with the field-glasses and felt justified in shooting it.

The photographs which illustrate this short article were taken by Mr. H. H. Willford, and give an idea of the kind of country in which the birds were found.

BIRD LIFE AT THE MANCHESTER ZOOLOGICAL GARDENS

By GRAHAM RENSHAW, M.D., F.R.S.E.

There must be few indeed of our northern Members who have not at some time or other enjoyed a visit to the Manchester Zoological Gardens at Belle Vue. The writer recommends those at a distance who have not had the advantage indicated to repair the omission as soon as possible, and trusts that the following notes may be of interest to all. A fuller account of the menagerie will be found in the Magazine for March, 1919.

Amongst the exhibits is a fine Emu, which lives summer and winter in an unheated shed with a paddock adjoining. On the writer's visit the bird stood still and silent among the long grass, occasionally shaking its head and looking about it, or turning to preen its hair-like plumage. Presently it walked forward with a delicate swinging gait, the body tilted as if too heavy for the slender legs, and the neck lowered, though still curved, as it inspected the herbage; the savage, hawk-like expression of the mild-natured Emu is remarkable, and is due to the yellowish colour of the eye. Only one of the beautifully tame Rheas survived, a fine cock, with long, trailing plumes that almost compensated for the tailless condition that obtains in these birds. In former days one had seen this bird and his mate following their master for bread like farmyard hens following their owner for corn.

Passing to the rows of large cages or aviaries, a Peacock was noticed perched fast asleep, its long train swaying in the breeze. The wind was not likely to disturb it, for these birds have been known to sleep unconcernedly out in the open during a snowstorm, so that their backs become thickly coated with snow. Once domesticated, Peafowl make themselves thoroughly at home. The writer now has before him an egg of these birds which was found at the top of a stack in the summer of 1891, and seems somewhat weathered, being of a pale cream colour, minutely pitted all over and marked with a few brownish spots which may be nest-stains. Our members are probably aware that the long train of the Peacock is not the tail but the tail coverts, the true tail being a small, insignificant structure.

In another roomy cage a trio of Sparrow-hawks stood stiffly erect, with yellow eyes and barred breasts, turning their heads this way and that. In the outdoor flying aviary the long necks of the Herons showed snaky against the greenery, and complacent Seagulls waddled to and fro like so many Ducks. In a cage opposite a Buzzard stood with both feet firmly planted on its food, tearing off morsels with hooked beak.

There was a fine blue-black Curassow in one of the houses, feeding as it walked about, taking tiny rapid pecks and looking up after each

mouthful, raising and lowering its crest, flirting its tail, and opening and shutting it sideways. A Marabout Stork ran about with huge wings widely expanded, throwing up its head and clattering its bill. Suddenly it resumed its sedateness, hunching its head between its shoulders as it walked.

The Penguins were amusing. They stood upright, flippers slightly extended, eyes closed. Occasionally one would stretch and shake its neck, then shake its body ; in the latter case the absurd apology for a tail shook too ! The bird next proceeded to raise its head and flippers, and solemnly shook itself again. Another perhaps would waddle forward, its body aslant ; all the movements of these quaint little creatures were made with portentous gravity, as if they were performing some religious ritual.

AVICULTURE AND AQUICULTURE: A NEW NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY

Every keeper of Waders, Gallinules, Gulls, and similar carnivorous birds has doubtless at some time or other wished for a regular supply of live food—fish, worms, snails, etc.—which would relieve him of the daily duty of preparing their dinner. In zoological gardens this problem is partially solved by feeding the Penguins and similar diving birds on live Gudgeon or Minnows if they can be conveniently obtained from some neighbouring water. Such food is, of course, perfectly natural and therefore ideal ; some of our members, recalling the task of preparing minced meat and so forth, may go further and term it Utopian ! The close association between fish and bird life, evidenced in the daily maintenance of Kingfishers, Herons, and similar water-loving birds, demonstrates beyond cavil the close connexion between aviculture and aquiculture.

The Editor therefore takes pleasure in drawing attention to the newest of zoological corporations, the Cinderella of natural history, the London Aquarium Society. In a letter recently received Mr. W. T. Webster, the President, remarks on the rapid growth of membership

since its inception in November last. All kinds of fishes, including the lovely tropical forms one sees at the Zoo, are to be studied, as well as other aquatic creatures and water plants. As Mr. Webster justly remarks, "later on the question of studying aquatic birds is sure to arise."

The new movement is receiving valuable support from the Press of this country and America. Thus the Editor of the *Fishing Gazette* has written a powerful appeal for membership, and the Transatlantic journal *Aquatic Life* has devoted three-fourths of a number to a contribution by Mr. Webster. The new Society intends to publish Proceedings at regular intervals; further details will be found elsewhere in this issue.

Slightly altering the dictum of the Roman sage, the up-to-date aviculturist may murmur, "I consider nothing *zoological* to be foreign to me." Briefly, all interested in Cranes, Storks, Herons, Ducks, Geese, Swans, and Seagulls will find fresh woods and pastures new in the Proceedings of the London Aquarium Society.

LESSON'S AMAZON

(*Chrysotis lilacina*)

By ALLEN SILVER, F.Z.S., F.R.H.S.

There are almost as many species of *Chrysotis* as there are weeks in the year. I have seen the greater proportion alive, and have kept or had through my hands many birds of this group; but when Mr. Rogers, of Liverpool, wrote to me recently saying he had an Amazon which he had never seen before, alive or dead, I naturally conjectured it was not a common bird of the trade. I do not suppose anyone will disagree with me when I say that for a period of forty years probably no man now living in Great Britain has handled more Amazon Parrots than Mr. Rogers, and naturally under the circumstances I was most interested to have and see the bird alive.

The owner kindly loaned it to me for observation, and for the purpose of getting it figured. When it arrived I at once knew I had not seen it alive before, resembling as it does *C. Salvini*,



Drawn by Alice M. Cook.

Generosity of H. E. Rogers.

LESSON'S AMAZON (*Corysotis lilacina*).

Crown, dull lavender ; lores, crimson ; wing speculum, red.

[To face p 30.

C. autumnalis, and *C. viridigena* in parts. Reference proved it to be *C. lilacina*—a small Ecuador Amazon, probably not 13 inches long when skinned and stretched unnaturally, but much less when perched. It is one of the smallest species, and in body plumage much resembles the Yellow-cheeked Amazon. Its cheeks, however, are different in colour to the Green-cheeked or Salvin's species, and, of course, lack the facial markings of *autumnalis*. The bill in this bird is black, the bare eye-ring broad, white, and pronounced. The irides are wine-red, not yellowish, and give the bird a pleasing expression.

The frontal feathers of the head and the lores as far as the gape (continuing as a streak above and beyond the eye) are crimson. The centre of the crown is dull lavender, with reddish tips to the feathers, but this ornamentation does not extend to the back of the crown or the nape. Like the Yellow-cheeked Amazon, it has a red wing speculum and no red rump.

This bird, I believe, has been referred to as *viridigenalis*? and *coccineofrons*, but I think the same terms have been applied to *viridigena*, the true Green-cheeked Amazon. I find it a good mimic and whistler, and it speaks a little. In disposition it is as playful as a Lorikeet, a great climber, and very active. It was once the pet of a West Indian coloured seaman, and arrived in very rough plumage, which, however, is speedily changing. I see no reason why this species should not (when well-trained and taken young) make a good speaker, and if so it would be more attractive than some of the larger kinds. As I have no recollection of seeing it before mentioned aviculturally I thought it advisable to make mention of the bird in our pages. With me it has been fed on canary-seed alternated with a mixture of sunflower, hemp, oats, and poultry grain, and gets in addition an occasional nut or piece of very hard and dry biscuit and a little fruit. Upon this diet it thrives and is getting into hard and tight condition. It may be safely described as a most attractive Amazon and well worth its place in a representative collection of such birds.

[The Society is much indebted to Mrs. Cook for illustrating this paper free of charge, and to Mr. Rogers for defraying the cost of reproducing the drawing.—G. R.]

AVICULTURAL NOTES

PIGMY OWLS.—I regret to report the death of my rare Mexican Pigmy Owl, concerning which I wrote in the *Avicultural Magazine* a few years since. I bought him ten years ago, and as he was adult then I cannot say how old he was. He was apparently in good health until about a week before he died, and I really think old age was the only cause of death. Last spring he paired with a widow Jardine's Pigmy Owl, and she laid three eggs, but unfortunately was taken ill and died about a week later; she too was an old bird, but not as old as the Mexican. One egg was fertile. I am afraid it will not be easy to replace these Owls, especially the Mexican. Mr. Astley had one for some time, which I believe came over shortly before my bird. I have not heard of any others being imported.

We have sustained a heavy loss by the death of Miss Alderson. She did much for the Society and was always kind and helpful when appealed to. Some years ago I was in difficulties over rearing some young Doves, and Miss Alderson helped me greatly, writing pages of advice and suggestions, and sending me a copy of her book on Doves, though she was, as I afterwards found out, exceedingly busy at that time. I hope this year some good breeding results will be chronicled in the Magazine. The arrival of the Cuban birds will be an event. What are the "Blue Birds" and the "Red and Green Butterfly Birds"? I long to begin bird-keeping again —
ETHEL F. CHAWNER.

[We suggest that the "Red and Green Butterfly Birds" are Green Todies (*Todus viridis*).—G. R.]

LONGEVITY OF BIRDS.—I still have four living birds; they seem likely to last for ever, and must have cost me at least a hundred times their intrinsic value in food. My hen Napoleon Weaver, the last of those purchased in 1900, still seems quite strong and healthy.—A. G. BUTLER.

CARNIVOROUS TASTES OF CRANES.—Cranes are certainly not to be trusted with weaker things as a rule, but my Mantchurians had lived for seven years with the waterfowl and had done them no harm! It was their newly developed parental affection that altered

their nature. But, of course, I cannot trust them again. The White Asiatic Crane in particular is a great egg thief, and will search the nest-boxes (on the ground) for Ducks' nests.—W. H. ST. QUINTIN.

REVIEWS

THE BOOK OF A NATURALIST. By W. H. HUDSON. Hodder and Stoughton. London, 1919. Price 12s. net.

Birds are not conspicuous in Mr. Hudson's new book, which deals more with dogs and serpents, toads and fritillaries, bats and potatoes, green lawns and the worms that help to keep them green. But there is enough to give it a welcome place on the shelves of every aviculturist—that is to say, if the aviculturist be broad-minded, ready to rejoice in the observations of a naturalist who hates birds in cages. Temperamental Mr. Hudson does not conceal his dislikes, and flicks the raw spots with an accurate aim; but in the present volume he is amiable, at least so far as lovers of birds are concerned. His only reference to birds in cages is the story of a Thrush, sedulously but not very wisely tended. One day, so Mr. Hudson's informant relates, the Thrush in the cage was observed to watch intently and excitedly a wild Thrush on the lawn killing and devouring a worm. The owner took the hint, added worms to the diet of rape-seed and bread and milk, and the tame Thrush, hitherto moping and dishevelled, rapidly became a happy and a glossy bird. It is a "tall" story, but an excellent lesson. A little knowledge of natural diet is quite a good thing for those who keep creatures in captivity.

Mr. Hudson, discussing life in a pine-wood, raises an interesting problem which deserves further study. How do nestlings escape the attacks of ants? He collected evidence—some from essays written by children for the competitions of the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds—that living nestlings are sometimes overpowered by raiding ants. He suggests that ants do not visit every tree, and that the parent birds usually select trees which they know not to be searched by ants. This seems a doubtful theory, ascribing

fixity of habit to the colonies of ants, and a providence on the part of the birds for which much evidence would be required. It is possible, however, that the explanation is simpler. Although ants remain in activity underground through winter, their numbers and their enterprise seem greater in late summer and autumn, at least in English woods, than at any other season of the year, and it may be that the majority of nests escape because the young are fledged and active before the visits of ants are numerous.

There are some delightful descriptions of the habits of birds, as, for instance, of Sparrow-hawks teaching their young, of the flight of the Humming-bird, of Herons bathing. Some tragedies of wild life are recorded. A Guira Cuckoo was found with its head hanging and wings drooping, struggling with too large a mouse that had stuck in its gullet. A Painted Snipe had unwarily put its foot between the open valves of a large fresh-water Clam, and had been caught in this living trap. It was skin and bone when Mr. Hudson was able to release it, but he hopes that it had a chance of surviving.

These are a few examples of the good reading that Mr. Hudson provides. As I have already said, the greater part of the volume is not about birds, but this will not detract from its value to aviculturists. Those who are not merely systematists cannot confine their interests to one group of animals, and they will watch birds to more purpose if they also study the mammals and reptiles and insects, the trees and flowers amongst which birds live. They could have no pleasanter or more stimulating guide than Mr. Hudson.

P. CHALMERS MITCHELL.

A GEOGRAPHICAL BIBLIOGRAPHY OF BRITISH ORNITHOLOGY. By W. H. MULLENS, H. K. SWANN, and F. C. R. JOURDAIN. Part I. Witherby & Co. 6s. net.

The Biographical Bibliography, to which this is a companion, has proved a most useful book of reference, but it lacked what the geographical work is designed to supply. Workers on county avifaunas or other distributional lists will find themselves saved an immense amount of toil. Only those who have attempted a country

bibliography can appreciate the work which the authors have put in ; wading through journals is tedious and often unproductive.

Presumably the English counties are being first dealt with, but it would have been wise to have stated this and to have given some general plan of the scope of the work. It is to be hoped that " British " means more than English. A glance at the dates of notes for any county proves that ornithology is an ever-increasing study ; it also shows to whom one can refer for information about the avifauna of any district.

It is a little puzzling to understand what the authors have had in mind when compiling the " General Works of Reference ". They have not included Lydekker's *Sportsman's British Bird Book*, a really useful volume, in spite of the fact that the illustrations are from stuffed specimens, nor do we find P. R. Lowe's *Our Common Seabirds*, which contains many county references. Bishop Stanley's *Familiar History of Birds* is included in the Cheshire section, but it contains interesting notes about other counties and deserves as good a place as some of those included. Presumably there is some reason for mentioning Robson's *Birds of the Derwent Valley* under Cumberland, for it is, rightly, also included in Durham. The book is to be completed in six parts.

T. A. COWARD.

A GEOGRAPHICAL BIBLIOGRAPHY OF BRITISH ORNITHOLOGY. By W. H. MULLENS, H. K. SWANN, and F. C. R. JOURDAIN. Part II. Witherby & Co.

Part II of this useful work deals with the English counties from Essex to Middlesex. It is difficult to judge if all counties have received the same care and attention, but the literature appears to have been carefully searched. Lancashire is fairly full, but there are one or two publications which have not been thoroughly examined.

A word of explanation why certain items are included would be an advantage ; for instance, Doubleday's *Remarks on the Entomology of Epping*. The word " appendix " added to Ewing's *Some materials for a Flora of Wroxham* would have been sufficient, and possibly there is similar reason for including notes on insects.

To the uninitiated in matters bibliographical the use in some instances of "*T.c.*" and in others "*Op. cit.*" is confusing. Indeed, it is not clear that any rule has been systematically observed. We look forward to an explanation.

It is, however, only fair to state that these faults, and one or two misses in proof-reading, do not detract from the real value of the bibliography, but as the work will undoubtedly be used by all serious workers in the future it would be well to make it as straightforward as possible.

T. A. COWARD.

THE SCOPE OF THE MAGAZINE

DEAR DR. RENSHAW,—Would a few notes on the mimicry of the Icterine Warbler be of any use to the *Avicultural Magazine*, or will members complain because the Icterine Warbler is seldom, if ever, kept in a cage!

Personally I think the wider the range of subjects we publish the greater the interest, as nothing is duller than everlasting accounts of disasters to young broods of Zebra Finches or accounts of hybrids that never quite materialized.—Yours sincerely,

PHILIP GOSSE.

MR. BARNBY SMITH'S NEW ZEALAND TRIP

DEAR DR. RENSHAW,—I am going a trip to New Zealand next autumn, and if there are any members of the Avicultural Society for whom I could make any inquiries or investigations as to birds there, I should be glad to do anything I can. Sometimes information can be obtained by an inquirer on the spot which is difficult to get by mail. If you think it worth while perhaps you will put a note in the Magazine. Shortly before the War a friend of mine sent out a lot of Black Grouse, Willow Grouse, etc., to New Zealand, and they arrived surprisingly well and I hope are flourishing.

Yours faithfully,

C. BARNBY SMITH.

"WOODLANDS," RETFORD
January 8, 1920.

A NEW SUPPLY OF PHEASANTS AND TRAGOPANS

DEAR SIR,—I shall be greatly obliged if you can tell me whether it is now possible to obtain a few copies of the coloured plate (by G. E. Lodge) of the Amherst Pheasant in display, published in the *Avicultural Magazine*, 3rd series, vol. iii, July, 1912. It may perhaps interest you to know that I have obtained an agency for live fancy Pheasants, which I obtain from France. I can supply fifteen different species, including three of Tragopans, and am receiving orders at the present time and for eggs in the spring.

I should be very glad should you know of anyone interested in these splendid birds, if you would kindly mention my name to them.

In regard to the Amherst plate, would you please let me have address of publisher if you cannot supply the picture yourself. Thanking you in anticipation, and trusting I may hear from you soon.

Yours truly,

CHARLES B. HORSBRUGH.

BLESSINGTON HOUSE, HILLSBOROUGH,
CO. DOWN, IRELAND.

[Members having spare copies of the plate desired are requested to communicate directly with our correspondent.—G. R.]

The Council deeply regrets to report that closely following the death of our esteemed Secretary, Miss Alderson, we have now lost our President, Lord Sherborne. Known to most of us as the Hon. and Rev. Canon Dutton, his avicultural work is most familiar to the older generation of naturalists, who will deeply deplore that he did not live to long enjoy his title.



Photo by Commander S. F. Rotch, R.N.

THE FARMER'S FRIEND.

[To face p. 39.]

THE AVICULTURAL MAGAZINE

BEING THE JOURNAL OF
THE AVICULTURAL SOCIETY
FOR THE STUDY OF
FOREIGN & BRITISH BIRDS
IN FREEDOM & CAPTIVITY

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MARCH, 1920.

THE CRY OF OWLS

By R. C. BANKS

I am not aware of any explanation of the weird, startling cries uttered by Owls, and I have often wondered what use they could be to the birds. I have lately thought of a reason for the cry, and hope that some of the readers of the *Avicultural Magazine* who have kept Owls will be able to record some fact that settles my idea—for or against—or, better still, devise an experiment with an Owl to test it. I know the great difficulty of devising and recording an experiment of this nature, but to me it is in such endeavours to clear up doubtful questions of this nature that the chief value of aviculture consists. I have never kept Owls, and am quite prepared to hear, on the principle of “nothing new under the sun”, that my idea is ancient history; but my excuse for troubling is that it has occurred independently to me.

Birds have various notes to express alarm, etc., and these notes are mostly pleasing and harmonious, some of the love-songs very much so. Why should Owls utter such raucous, startling cries? It would appear to be a great mistake for a bird that catches its prey by night to let the prey know that it is about, searching for a victim; but the notes of all birds have a meaning and a use, and I have no doubt the Owl's cry helps it to catch its food, or Owls would have starved long ago.

In Monmouthshire there are five Owls. The Short-eared species,

I think, is a regular winter visitor on suitable ground. The Long-eared Owl is rare; the Little Owl has invaded the county during the last two years, and is spreading. None of these three are numerous enough to discuss. The Brown Owl is very common, and the Barn Owl fairly so. The former has two calls, the most startling being something like “Tch-vać! Tch-vać!” pronounced with great sharpness.

This, however, is nothing to the call of the Barn Owl, or as many country people call it, the Screech Owl, and those who have heard it suddenly give vent to its cry in the darkness might well imagine that it would send every Rat or Mouse within hearing to its hole for the rest of the night. The cry of the Eagle Owl is said to be very much worse, and yet it must serve some purpose in the economy of the bird. It is well known that most animals in all classes escape their enemies by “freezing”—i.e. becoming absolutely rigid until the danger has passed. Assume an Owl conscious of the presence of prey by (possibly) scent or sight, and the animal lost to sight by the rigid attitude it has assumed. If an Owl after flying around and failing to discover the position of the animal suddenly lets fly its startling cry, it might well cause that animal, especially if young, to start, and that movement would disclose its position and mean capture. If so, these cries, which to us appear to give alarm to the hunted, would really be of great assistance to Owls.

This, of course, is only a theory, and should be supported by facts before it can be accepted as an explanation of such weird and apparently harmful cries.

Do those who keep Owls notice that they take their prey mostly after uttering their cries?

COLOUR IN FEATHERS

By A. G. BUTLER, Ph.D.

It is difficult to understand how the elimination of yellow from green could so modify the structure of feathers as to leave them blue and the elimination of blue leave them yellow. If the absence of yellow pigment left the *structural* blue effect, how could the latter be got

rid of in order to leave the yellow pigment unaffected? It is easier to comprehend change of colour in the case of pigments than in the structure of every feather in a bird's plumage.

In floriculture one notes that individuals of the same flower exhibit utterly dissimilar colouring in their blooms, probably absorbing from the same soil different chemicals or varying quantities of the same mineral colouring agent; but I should not expect the surface, say, of a rich blue pansy to differ structurally from that of a golden-yellow one; indeed, we know well that in the case of these flowers the colouring is not evidently pigmental or structural (in the accepted sense of the term) since it is a fluid and permanent—perhaps representing pigment in solution or infinitely small floating structures capable of intercepting special light-rays; it is not affected by the moulding of the outer walls of the flower.

In insects blue pigment certainly does occur, unless I am greatly mistaken, since we constantly see patches of dead blue in all shades near to areas of black or brown structurally modified so as to exhibit shot-blue colouring. Then when one transfers the scales of a butterfly's wing to gummed paper, thus reversing the scales, although one may note prismatic effects upon the back of the scale which do not appear on the front, the actual colour of the scale is retained, indicating the presence of enclosed pigment.

The whole question of colour in nature is very interesting and extremely complex; one life is not long enough to enable one to get to the bottom of a thousandth part of nature's puzzles.

FORSTER'S MILVAGO

By FREDERICK D. WELCH, M.R.C.S.

Birds which live long in captivity are of interest because they give an idea of the length of life in the wild state, if fortunate enough to escape destruction by enemies. It seems, therefore, worth recording that of two specimens of birds of prey, Forster's *Milvago* or Carrion Hawk (*Ibycter australis*)—a species native to the Falkland Islands—which arrived in the London Zoological Gardens in July, 1886, both

lived for more than thirty-one years, the first dying towards the end of 1917, the other being still alive in June, 1919 (since then I have not visited the Gardens). It would seem, judging from this long career, that London fogs have no bad effect on the health of this species.

Whether they were male and female I cannot say for certain, but am inclined to think they were, because one warm day in 1902 I found them running round in a circle on the floor of their cage, each following in the path of the other, and both uttering a loud cackling noise, much like that of a broody domestic hen, but much louder. This display seemed to be an outburst of breeding affection; they continued it for about three minutes, but stopped at once when they discovered that they were watched. I was never fortunate enough to see them again indulge in this amusing conduct, they having apparently become suspicious.

If they were, as I believe, male and female, there was no appreciable difference in the size of the sexes. Both birds were about as big as a common Buzzard, and of the same coloration—black in general, with a white tip to the tail. There were brown feathers round the thighs, and some pale-grey* streaks down the neck and breast. Neither bird showed any alteration in the paler marks as age advanced, thus contrasting with some Vulturine Eagles (*Aquila verreauxi*) exhibited at intervals in the same Gardens, one of which darkened somewhat, no doubt owing to advancing age.

As negative evidence is sometimes of value, it may be stated here that Mr. C. Chubb, of the British Museum, very kindly examined three specimens for me during 1919, but without settling whether the female bird was usually the larger.

A striking feature of these *Milvagoes* during their earlier years—and especially from about 1900 to 1908—was their aggressive temper towards other birds in adjoining cages. For instance, on one occasion I found both very hostile to a recently arrived Tawny Eagle; the *Milvagoes* dashing at the bars shrieking wildly and vociferously, with

* In the Royal Natural History these streaks are stated to be "white". They were *grey* in the above specimens from 1900 and onwards, as also in another specimen seen in Belle Vue Gardens, Manchester, about 1902, which agreed in size also with the two in London.

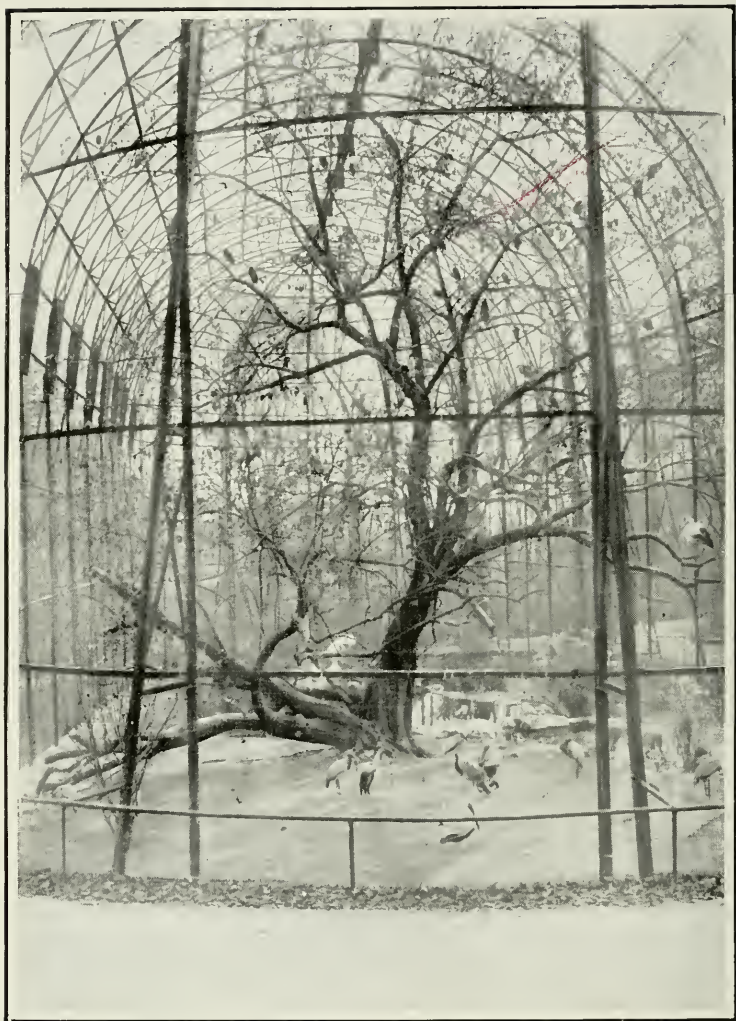


Photo by R. W. Shufeldt, M.D.

AN AVICULTURAL PALACE:
The great Flying Cage in the Washington Zoological Park.

[To face p. 43.]

much flapping of wings, evidently eager for battle with the newcomer if an opportunity occurred. As the Eagle only stared back angrily, nothing further developed; the display lasted an hour. On another occasion I found them trying to reach a Crowned Hawk Eagle (*Spizartus coronatus*), so that Forster's Milvago is not deficient in courage. In later life they became much milder. Except when angry, I never remember them making any noise none for amusement, as is so frequent with the vociferous Sea Eagle, and to a lesser extent with Pallas's Fishing Eagle.

The only other comparison which seems worth noting is that these birds appeared heavier and less active in flight than were their allies, the Brazilian Caracaras (*Polyborus*).

BIRDS IN THE NATIONAL ZOOLOGICAL GARDENS AT WASHINGTON

By R. W. SHUFELDT, M.D., C.M.Z.S., etc., Fellow of the American
Ornithologists' Union, Hon. Member Royal Australasian
Ornithologists' Union

There is probably no other zoological park in the world that possesses the acreage, associated with the wide variations of topographical features of the National Zoological Park at Washington. With respect to the first it may be said that the land area includes between 160 and 170 acres, while, taken as a whole, the land and water diversity is truly remarkable, as one finds every physical character of it in the surrounding country for miles. There are level tracts, gorges, forests, thickets, hills of no mean size, goodly streams, ponds, brooks—indeed, so diversified is the area that the visitor ever has the feeling of being very close to nature when rambling through the greater part of the reserve. It is not my intention, however, to present a detailed description of this elegant Government reservation in this place, as I have already done so in several other publications, as in the *Scientific American* supplement and elsewhere. It is from an ornithological angle that I desire to give some account of the attractions of our National "Zoo", and there are many of them.

First a word as to the wild birds that regularly occur every yearly migration in this extensive domain—some of which nest there and rear their young. Most of these fall in with the passerine groups, as the Thrushes, Warblers, and Bluebirds, not to mention a considerable list of others. As I write these lines I have just returned from the “ Zoo ’’, where I have been photographing, out in the timbered part, a captive Opossum. As I made the second exposure a wild Turkey flew down and lit in the snow within 50 feet of my camera. The elegant bird was quite oblivious of our presence—there being three of us, my wife, a park attendant, and myself. Bevvies of Quail are frequent visitors, and occasionally a Woodcock may be flushed in the swampy places. Crows, Vultures, Woodpeckers, Jays, Wild-fowl, Herons, Waders—in fact, all birds of the immediate region—are to be found in this park at one time or another. Some of these are attracted by those of the corresponding species confined in cages that have been erected in more or less secluded places among the trees. There you will see a wild Barred Owl in the evening, sitting outside on top of the big cage in which are confined some six or seven of its own species. There are a number of Night Herons in the great flying cage ; so we find in the evening wild birds of the same species, to the number of five or six (eleven in one instance), alighting on the trees in the vicinity, or on top of the cage. In numerous instances they have built their nests and reared their young in the latter place.*

In addition to Night Herons the flying cage contains Florida Cormorants, various Gulls, Australian Swans, Great Blue Herons, several species of Ibis, Anhingas, Pelicans, and other water-fowl. There is a good-sized pond in the centre, a spring near by, and a large tree for the Cormorants and Herons to nest in.

Close to this great cage is another of no mean proportions, in which we may see as fine a collection of Cockatoos and other Psittacidæ as exists in any zoological garden in the world. There are two or three species of Macaws with them, some five or six of each kind, with numerous specimens of the Sulphur-crested and Leadbeater’s Cockatoos. Along the same path we come to a little pool on which one may see some twenty

* [Aviculturists will remember a similar mixture of wild and tame Herons in the Zoological Gardens at Rotterdam.—G. R.]

or thirty Ducks and Teals in superb plumage, the species represented being the Mandarin Teal, three species of American Teal, and Wood Ducks. On a side hill, not far off, large cages contain the California Condors, various rare Hawks, and Vultures. Their quarters are large and commodious, and the various inmates are in fine condition. In another part of the park one will find a superb specimen of the South American Condor, while close at hand another immense cage contains numerous species of Eagles, Vultures, and their allies. Outside, on the top of this cage, it is no unusual thing to see a dozen Turkey Buzzards perching, some of them roosting there all night. They are attracted by the raw beef fed to the captives in the cage.

Of all the Raptorial birds in the park the great favourite was the late famous Harpy Eagle, of which I obtained a photograph through the courtesy of Mr. N. Hollister, the Superintendent, who kindly allowed me to make prints from the negative in the park collection. "The record for this Harpy Eagle is a matter of pride for the keepers in the bird department, for this rare bird of prey had been kept in good health for nearly eighteen years. He was received May 19, 1899, as a gift from the Governor of the State of Amazonas, Brazil, through Commander C. C. Todd, United States Navy. It is believed that the species has never before been kept in any gardens for a similar period." After its demise the specimen passed to the National Museum, and apart from its skull, which was left in the skin, I have compared the skeleton of this bird with that of the big Monkey-eating Eagle of the Philippines. The account has recently been published by the Bureau of Science in Manila.

In various cages in the main bird house we find a very excellent collection of a great variety of species, some of which are rarely seen in captivity. During the year 1918 there were in the collection, all told, over 700 individuals, representing a great many species. At the further end of the bird house there is a great cage, in the centre of which a fine pool of clear water is placed. There we see Storks, Ibises, Tree Ducks, Pelicans, Flamingoes, and other aquatic species. Just outside another large cage is seen to contain some five or six specimens of the famous Kea Parrot. These were received from the New Zealand Government through Mr. Ben Wilson, of the Department of Tourist

and Health Resorts. In the same valuable lot were received eight Wekas, or flightless Rails.

In so far as birds go, one of the greatest attractions of this park is its Wild-fowl lake (Fig. 1), where we find associated some forty species of anserine birds, as Swans, various kinds of Geese, Brant, Teals, Sheldrakes, Ducks, and Pochards; at any season of the year the sight is surely a very unusual one. Every year some of these birds breed along the margin of the lake and rear their young. During summer afternoons one of the great attractions of the place is to be on hand when this assemblage of wild-fowl are fed. It is certainly an interesting thing to see so many species together in one flock.

The members of the bird department of this "Zoo" have every reason to be proud of the record they have earned for the means adopted for displaying this collection to the visiting public; for the attractive arrangement of the habitations of the various species; and for the care bestowed upon them. What is needed, in so far as my information carries me, is better salaries for all those connected with the institution, a far more generous appropriation from Congress each year for the upkeep of the entire concern, and, finally, complete prosectorial and photographic departments, where birds and their structure could be studied as they should be studied.

PARROTS

By the late O. E. CRESSWELL

(Kindly communicated by Miss Frances Cresswell.)

The three points to which I would call attention as regards Parrots are: (a) their wonderful power of imitating the human voice, the voices of animals and birds, and domestic sounds; (b) their fascinating tameability and affection; (c) the glorious beauty and variety of their forms and plumage.

(a) *Of their Imitative Powers.*—This power, as we all know, is possessed by very few tribes of birds. The Raven, the Crow, the Jackdaw, the Jay, and Magpie, among British birds, occasionally possess and exercise it, and I must confess that I have known a quaint

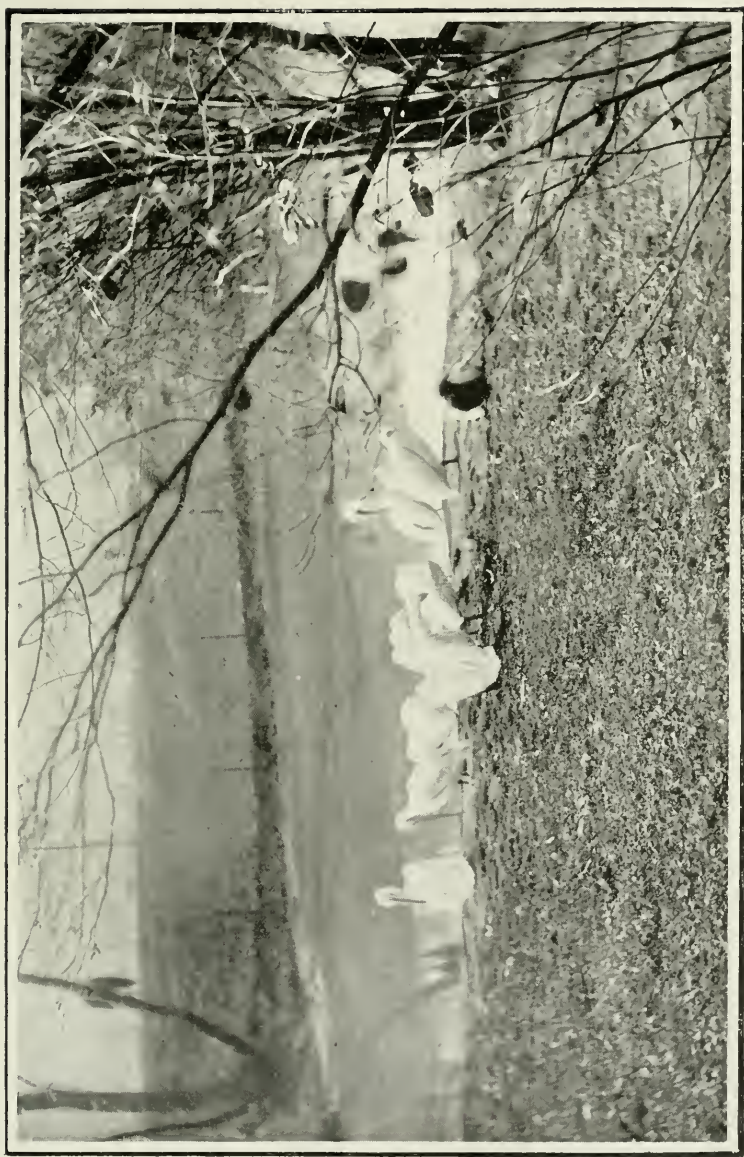


Photo by R. W. Shufeldt, M.D.

THE PELICANS' TOILET.

[To face p. 46.]

comicality in the mimicry of Jackdaws and Magpies scarcely equalled by any Parrot. They, however, are rare exceptions. Of the Parrot tribe there seems a possibility that a bird of any species, from the huge Hyacinthine Macaw down to the tiniest Australian Budgerigar, may speak, and of certain species a large majority of individuals do learn to speak more or less. I say advisedly *learn* to speak, for their proficiency as talkers depends greatly on the tact, patience, and perseverance of their instructors. A Parrot will often remain silent for months, occasionally for years, in new hands, and still eventually prove an excellent talker. I do not mean that they do not learn much from one another and from the casual noises and conversations of a family, while appearing to take no notice at all; but whatever you desire to teach a Parrot you must repeat constantly, and must not be disheartened by the bird's utter disregard or rather apparent utter disregard of you. Some day he will probably say it when least expected to do so. I should not fail to mention that like great talkers of the human race they are jealous of rivals, and, like a Macaulay or a Thackeray, some Parrots if they cannot monopolize the conversation often sulk in silence. My own Patagonian Conure has terribly retrograded since my Illiger's Macaw learnt his pet sayings and *says them first!* This is a common complaint with those who keep many Parrots. I do not for a moment believe that because they are silent they forget their former sayings; I believe the memory of Parrots to be very accurate. The said Patagonian Conure at times calls the poultry in the peculiar way of a young man who was temporarily with me in 1893.

You may perhaps ask, "Which of all the Psittacidæ are the best talkers?" Probably the well-known Grey South African, but though they have great facility for learning a number of words and even sentences and pronouncing them intelligently, they almost invariably do so in their own rather throaty voice.

South American Amazons, of which I will speak in detail presently, are close rivals of the Greys, and they have an advantage in that they are far more easily acclimatized. A friend of mine, probably the greatest living English authority on Parrots, the Hon. and Rev. Frederick Dutton, wrote: "The Amazon is one of the best to keep, as it learns quickly

to talk, and when it becomes a good talker gives up screaming. I find them a better-tempered Parrot than the Grey. They are more apt at imitating sound than the Grey Parrot. The Grey does not pick up laughing, crying, and such like sounds as the Amazon does. The Amazon, too, has the special power of giving the idea of a conversation. You hear no word distinctly, but you would certainly say two people were talking together. An Amazon, too, talks much more freely before strangers than a Grey, and certainly one that really talks rubbish is to be preferred to a Grey for that reason."

The Macaws alone, I believe, of the tribe (save most occasionally and exceptionally) have the power of changing their voices. My own Illiger's Macaw, which I hope presently to introduce to you, can call his name "Jerry" in a clear loud voice, and then will whisper it in the softest and most affected tones. So much for the speaking and imitative powers of Parrots—but with which function of the brain is this connected? I fancy chiefly with association of ideas. I remember long years ago, when I was in the University of Oxford, reading a paper before an essay society upon the great part which association of ideas has among our own intellectual faculties. I was forcibly and interestingly reminded of my former study by Miss Lechmere's instructive paper on the mental faculties of the lower animals. With Parrots I am certain that association is powerful and accurate. I will give two or three instances. My own Patagonian Conure some years ago lived in the old cottage; the stove had a valve which squeaked abominably when opened; the bird soon learned to imitate this metallic noise exactly, and if he saw one approaching the stove to put on fuel, squeaked before one had time to raise the valve. As an instance of great accuracy of association, viz. association of a saying with a time of play, I may relate the case of a Grey Parrot, the most wonderful talker I have ever heard of, the property of a lady and gentleman in Devonshire, which says "good morning" with the clearest utterance, but never save in the earlier hours of the day. One more instance from my own experience. I was last autumn in the extreme south-west of France, where Amazon Parrots from Brazil are everywhere seen. Outside a cottage, the inhabitants of which had apparently gone out to work for the day and had locked it up, hung a poor Parrot

in a miserably small and filthy cage ; on the low garden wall sat a thin and dejected cat. I went up to the Parrot, who said something to me, I believe, in Portuguese. I then stroked the poor cat, and the Parrot immediately said " Meow ! "

(*To be continued.*)

THE ICTERINE WARBLER

By PHILIP GOSSE, F.Z.S., M.B.O.U.

Of all my experiences in France during the War, some pleasant, others the reverse, I think none gave me more delight than the occasional hours spent watching and listening to birds. At the present time bird-watching has become almost a cult ; but listening to birds is equally interesting and rewarding, and the bird I have particularly in my mind appeals more to the ear than to the eye.

Early one morning in the month of May, 1916, while asleep in the garden of a château at a village called Hersin Coupigny, I was awakened by a bird's note that was new to me. For awhile I was unable to detect what bird it was, high up among the thick foliage over my head, that made such a surprising medley of sounds ; but presently I was able to make out a small green Warbler, somewhat in size, form, and posture like a Wood Warbler, but with a greenish belly and a pronounced eye-streak.

Its song was remarkable, being a kind of pot-pourri of sounds, some sweet, some the exact imitation of the notes and songs of other birds, all mixed up with harsh guttural noises.

This active and garrulous little bird proved to be the Icterine Warbler (*Hypolais icterina*), a bird I was soon to become very familiar with and very fond of. At first it imitated the song of the Swallow, which it did so perfectly that for a while I could not believe that a Swallow was not twittering somewhere close by. Besides the song, this bird mimicked the cry of the Swallow, and also the alarm-note of the Blackbird ; but the latter was reproduced in miniature. This particular Icterine also gave really remarkable imitations of the Skylark's song and of some of the notes of the Nightingale, while it mimicked several times the long drawn out whistle of the Starling.

This bird proved to be by far the finest performer I ever heard, as although I afterwards listened to many Icterine Warblers during the summer of 1916 I heard none to compare with the first one.

By June 8 Icterines were becoming quite numerous, and on this day I witnessed a most furious battle between one and a cock Black-cap Warbler.

On May 18 I came across a very fluent Icterine in the little mining town called Fosse No. 10, which was the last place in which one would expect to see or hear anything so charming, as it was a squalid excrescence of brick and mortar occasionally under shell-fire.

This one mimicked most accurately the call notes of the Green and Greater-spotted Woodpeckers, but in miniature. I thought up to this time that all these calls were imitating other birds' notes, but this Fosse 10 bird also reproduced exactly the note of the so-called Pekin Robin (*Liothrix luteus*)—so that in some cases the similarity of sound must be a mere coincidence.

This dreadful town of Fosse 10 appeared to only have this one bird inhabitant, which lived amongst some lilac bushes in the little back-yard of the deserted cottage where I was billeted.

On May 28 I found the first nest, a dainty, compact affair covered with pieces of lichen and held in the fork of a shrub; in it were five eggs of a delicate purple-lilac colour, with small dark-brown spots.

Whenever I approached the nest the bird that I think was the hen kept up a continual series of alarm cries, resembling the chirp of a House Sparrow. Icterine Warblers seem to be attracted to towns, as I saw and heard another in the large mining town of Bruay, where no other Warblers were to be seen; in fact, no birds at all, except Sparrows and Starlings, and occasionally a Black Redstart, which last has an affection for roofs of houses.

Below the town of Poperinghe there is a stream with steep banks on either side, and much hidden by shrubs and small trees, which runs towards Abele. This was a great haunt of Icterine Warblers; some good mimics, some very poor. Here one noticed the great apparent change in colour of the breast of these birds, varying from light brown to bright green, the latter caused by the light being reflected off the leaves of the bushes in which the birds were perching for the moment.

THE PRETORIA ZOOLOGICAL GARDENS

By GRAHAM RENSHAW, M.D., F.R.S.E.

“The country now presented the aspect of a vast zoological garden.” So wrote Sir Cornwallis Harris on his famous African journey long ago, and though the “bonny mountains of Cashan” no longer harbour swarms of White Rhinoceroses and troops of Sable Antelope in the Gardens at Pretoria the naturalist may yet make intimate acquaintance with the fauna of a sub-continent. Those who have not wandered so far afield may gain an excellent idea of the collection through the illustrated Guide Book, printed in English and Dutch, a copy of which has been sent us by Mr. Haagner, a member of our Society and Director of the institution. Between 1,600 and 1,700 vertebrates are usually kept, enjoying a lovely climate which renders elaborate heated buildings all but superfluous, most of the animals being actual natives of the country in which they are exhibited. The main entrance gives immediate access to a grand avenue of silver oaks.

The aviculturist will find here much to interest him. Parrots swing in semi-liberty under the silver oaks, recalling their relations of Regent’s Park under the trees of the canal bank. The Pheasantry, 175 yards long, contains the Golden, Silver, Reeves, Amherst, Swinhoe, and Ring-necked species, besides Crowned, Bleeding Heart, Crested, and Wonga Wonga Pigeons; Bustards and Francolin are also shown in this series. The great flying aviary is 135 feet long, and contains Peafowl and Guinea-fowl, Ibises and Coots, while in the trees overhead are seen Touracoes, Parrots, Glossy Starlings, and Doves. The Brush Turkey, of mound-building fame, is also represented.

The Carinate birds are represented by North and South African Ostriches (including an albino female and an Emu); the larger water-fowl are located near an avenue of gum-trees, and include the Madagascar Knob-billed Goose, the Egyptian Goose, the Spur-winged Goose, and domestic Ducks. The lesser water-fowl—Carolina, Mandarin, White-faced and Whistling Ducks, Japanese Teal, Magpie Geese, etc.—are installed in small paddocks in another part of the grounds, while Swans and Flamingoes are accommodated in a large pond, the oldest installation in the Gardens. The Indian Bar-headed Geese have lived

here ever since 1906. The series of Hornbills is fine, consisting of the Ground Hornbill (the "Turkey" of the colonists), the Trumpeter Hornbill, with his great helmet, also the Grey, Red-billed, and Yellow-billed species, these latter having been imported straight from the local bushveld.

The birds of prey are housed in eighteen roomy cages. The inmates include the Condor, the Black-eared Vulture, Kolbe's Vulture or Aasvogel, the Egyptian Vulture, the Caracara, the Verreaux, Tawny, and Bateleur Eagles. Here also are the Jackal Buzzard (often to be seen at Regent's Park), the Steppe Buzzard, the Spotted and Grass Owls. The large bird house is a shed devoted to Storks, Cranes, Peafowl, etc.; some domestic poultry are also shown here.

With regard to the buildings, the keynote throughout is simplicity with efficiency, and the visitor from Europe will not find at Pretoria elaborate edifices with heating apparatus and glass bricks; this austral Zoo has gone "back to nature", and every aviculturist will wish it well.

HINTS FOR AVICULTURISTS: THE PRESERVATION OF EGGS

By K. L. SKINNER, Editor of the *Oologists' Exchange and Mart*

Clutches.—The contents of a nest is termed a "clutch", and is at best the full number of eggs laid by the bird. Some birds (e.g. Puffin, Razorbill, Storm Petrel) lay but one, and then one is the clutch; others, such as Pigeons, Nightjars, etc., lay only two, and then two is the clutch. Eggs from one nest should never be mixed with those from any other, and should be marked in such a way that each clutch can be distinguished. Experienced collectors can always tell if eggs have been mixed, and a collector once found out in this is never trusted again.

Marking Eggs.—Keep clutches quite separate until they are blown, and when they are blown and are quite *dry* mark them with a soft pencil. Never mark them with ink or with indelible pencil. Employ whatever system of marking you fancy, but the best is as follows: Take a notebook or exercise book and record in it all your clutches

as found, giving a number to each clutch and *mark that number on each egg in that clutch*. The book will contain all the necessary information, where found, date, and a few notes about the nest, whether eggs are fresh or sat upon, and anything else worth recording. In some countries, such as India and America, collectors work to a standard reference list, and mark the recognized reference number on their eggs as well as their own number.

Data.—Any neat scraps of paper will do for data slips, but a printed form looks best, of course. Data slips should give the same information that is recorded in the book, viz. name, date, locality, where found, etc. etc., and, of course, the clutch reference number as marked on the eggs.

Blowing Eggs.—Use only a conical drill and only make one hole, and that on the side of the egg where the markings are least beautiful. Wet the drill before starting, hold the egg in the fingers of the left hand, and with the drill in the fingers of the right hand twirl the drill until a hole is made sufficiently large for the contents to come out. Always do this over a pan of water, as the egg if it drops is not so likely to break. Having bored the hole put the blow-pipe to the mouth, and with the egg held *hole downwards* over the water blow air *at* the hole. It will force its way in, form a cushion behind the yolk and force out the contents. If the yolk-sac does not break, but comes out whole, there will be no need to cleanse the egg, but if the yolk-sac breaks the egg must be rinsed out by injecting water with the blow-pipe and blowing it out till the inside is quite clean. After the egg is blown, lay it *hole down* on a *wet* piece of old white cloth. Any dregs will run out, the surface attraction of the wet cloth helping in this. Do not let them dry and stick to the cloth, or portions of the shell will adhere to the cloth when you lift the eggs up. All these little details are important, and make the difference between good and badly prepared specimens. Clean outside of eggs as far as you can, but remember the markings will wash off some.

Packing.—To pack eggs get a strong wooden box from a store. Line it with cotton-wool, and tear strips of cotton-wool and wind each egg round and round. The great things to remember are (1) to pack the eggs so that they cannot rattle loose and touch each other or the

sides of the box, (2) do not pack so tight that the packing will not "take up" the strains caused by the sides or lid bending in, (3) do not try and use too light a box, or too small a box, or try to economize with wool. If you do it will be the best eggs that will get broken, and a saving of a few pence will be nothing in comparison.

OUR HON. TREASURER

Mr. Ezra has resigned the post of Honorary Treasurer to the Society, the resignation taking effect as from January 22. At the Council meeting held on that day the Council expressed their keen appreciation of Mr. Ezra's valuable services, especially during the dark days of the War. It is only the few who realize the amount of correspondence which passes through the Treasurer's hands in the course of twelve months.

Dr. Lovell-Keays, Secretary to the Society, was elected to the vacant office. This appointment accords with the new policy of the Council, which seeks to concentrate executive work into a smaller focus.

AVICULTURAL NOTES

CONTENTS OF HERON'S STOMACH.—At the meeting of the London Aquarium Society on February 6 one of the members—Mr. P. W. Horn, Curator of the Stepney Borough Museum—exhibited the contents of the stomach of a Heron, consisting of the remains of Rats, *Dyticus*, and various other Water-beetles and their larvæ.—W. T. WEBSTER.

A RESCUED BLUE-TIT.—Early in the evening of October 29, 1916, I noticed in the garden a Blue-tit, which was busily inspecting the celery. It could hardly fly, mainly progressing by hops, as its plumage was soaked and heavy. I easily captured it, and taking it inside wrapped it in flannel and placed it in a basket near the fire. In the morning it had quite recovered, and, the lid of the basket being lifted, flew into an apple-tree and began to inspect the branches. I wish to express my thanks to Dr. Butler for his paper on Budgerigars in the December number in answer to my query.—ERIC LEE.

EAGLE AND SPARROW.—Probably most visitors to the London Zoological Gardens suppose that captive Eagles frequently dash after the Sparrows which venture into their cages. My experience of numerous visits has shown the opposite, as although several Eagles of different genera and species have been seen to “eye” a Sparrow for a few seconds, the only one I ever saw dash at one was a Corean Sea Eagle. One day during August, 1901, when approaching the cage, I noticed the eye of the Eagle light up as it gazed for a few seconds at a Sparrow, which was sitting on the floor of the cage and between the upright bars (with its body, therefore, half inside and half outside the cage). The Eagle was on the perch, and without making any cry or screech its wings were suddenly raised above its head (almost, if not quite, meeting each other), and it dashed like lightning at the bars, crashing against them with its legs, which were extended fully, and getting its toes round the Sparrow before the latter had realized the situation and made any attempt to escape. The Eagle, however, though its claws were encircling its prey, could *not* close them *completely*, because the bars were one on each side of the Sparrow, which finally managed to wriggle out and escape. When the Eagle found its prey had escaped it grasped the bars for several minutes and sat there flapping its wings, screeching now and then. Like certain mammals which are only black and white, the contrast of colours in this Eagle, which was all black except for the white tail and beak, rendered it more attractive than some birds, which have several and more gaudy hues. Whether other Eagles can pounce so quickly as this one I cannot say, having no means of comparison, but from the extraordinary rapidity of this individual I cannot believe that any other species could move faster.—FREDERICK D. WELCH, M.R.C.S.

REVIEW

A NATURALIST'S SKETCH-BOOK. By ARCHIBALD THORBURN, F.Z.S.
Longmans Green & Co. With sixty plates. £6 6s. net.

British throughout, this grand volume fittingly commences with a frontispiece of that peculiarly British bird, the Red Grouse. These three studies, in fact, are typical of the entire work, transporting the

reader to the open life of moor and covert, whether asleep in the blazing sunshine or cold and dank under winter's coverlet. In addition to the exquisite Nature scenes we also find detailed studies of individual birds, and even of individual talons and feet, all sketched with almost microscopic accuracy. Eagles, Hawks, Owls, Pheasants, and Ptarmigan may be mentioned among Mr. Thorburn's sitters; then there are beautiful studies of Titmice, of Thrushes, and of Ducks. Mr. Thorburn's art has that most valuable quality—the power to suggest movement. The Golden Eagle wafted on strong pinions, its great wings curled upward by the wind, is an instance of this; repose, on the other hand, is seen in the Pheasant at the covert-side, with brilliant plumage set off by the blazing autumn woodland. The Woodcock lying in concealment recalls Mr. Proctor Smith's photograph of a resting Snipe, which appeared in our November number; the Barn Owl, with its cat-like face, the handsome Fieldfare, the smart Redwing, and the lustrous Black Cock, busy courting, pass before us in procession. Anatomists will appreciate the detail in the figured Eagle talons, with their suggestion of savage strength.

The sketches, are not however, of equal value; thus the leg of the Great Tit on plate 20 is too feeble; and a Sea Eagle is shown feeding with dripping beak on a Rabbit carcass, which exhibits no visible damage.

G. R.

NEW ZEALAND BIRDS

DEAR DR. RENSHAW,—You will remember you inserted a note in the *Avicultural Magazine* about my trip to New Zealand next autumn, asking if any members would like me to be on the look-out for anything particular in the way of observation or inquiry respecting the birds in the North Island.

I mentioned that a lot of game birds had been sent out just before the War by a friend of mine in Copenhagen, and you asked me to inquire particulars. I wrote my friend a good many weeks ago, but have had no reply, so what has happened to him I cannot say. The game birds were Capercaillie, Willow Grouse, and Black Cock, and although they had to go through the tropics and the journey was tremendously

long, yet they nearly all arrived safely. It was suggested that other lots should be sent to New Zealand, but the War stopped this.

I am afraid it would not be possible to bring back with me any birds from New Zealand without obtaining a special licence.

I wonder if I shall get a good sight of the interesting Wry-bills.

Yours very faithfully,

C. BARNBY SMITH.

“WOODLANDS,” RETFORD.

February 21, 1920.

THE OWL'S CRY

DEAR SIR,—On the 7th inst. I bought a copy of a pocket guide, *Birds of the British Islands*, by T. A. Coward (an excellent little book illustrated by plates copied from Lilford's *Birds*), for my younger son, and upon looking through it yesterday in the article on the Barn Owl (*Flammea flammea*), p. 290, I find :—

“During its nightly rounds, for it has regular beats, it screeches repeatedly, a habit calculated to discount the advantage gained by its silent flight. The suggestion that small mammals are startled into movement is hardly supported by experience, for the alarmed Mouse or Shrew instantly ‘freezes’ and is then difficult to detect.”

You will notice that this does not cover my suggestion that the screech is to startle its prey from the frozen attitude, and that the matter is only to be solved by the observation of tame Owls by aviculturists. It would be interesting to know from where Mr. Coward got his reference to this suggestion, and also what “experience”, if any, he has had.

I thought it better to bring this to your notice, as I should be sorry to be the cause of your starting a discussion in your paper that has already been worked out in other journals.

Yours faithfully,

R. C. BANKS.

SIR,—I cannot agree with Mr. Banks that the Owls, as a rule, utter “ raucous ” cries, but I suppose that is a matter of taste. I have seen no evidence to support the idea that the calls are connected with the capture of prey, any more than that the songs of Passerine birds, the screams of Hawks, and the various notes of Gulls or Ducks have influence upon the animals on which they feed. I have kept both Barn and Tawny Owls, and though both called frequently, the notes had no relation to feeding time. There was often a chirrup of satisfaction on receipt of food, but no distant screech or hoot, or even the flight call, *ki-wik*, which is common to both species.

T. A. COWARD.

DR. LOVELL-KEAYS

At the moment of going to press we regret to report the serious illness of Dr. Lovell-Keays, due to his War service. All Members will join with the Council in expressing deep sympathy with Dr. Keays, who has now twice acted as Secretary to the Society and has undertaken many difficult and dangerous duties in the service of his country.



Photo by E. R. Sanborn.

Courtesy of Dr. Hornaday.

FROM SOUTHERN SEAS :

BLACK-FOOTED PENGUINS IN THE NEW YORK ZOOLOGICAL PARK.

Similar "natural surroundings" may be seen in the Zoological Park at Edinburgh.

THE AVICULTURAL MAGAZINE

BEING THE JOURNAL OF
THE AVICULTURAL SOCIETY
FOR THE STUDY OF
FOREIGN & BRITISH BIRDS
IN FREEDOM & CAPTIVITY

Third Series.—Vol. XI.—No. 4.—*All rights reserved.*

APRIL, 1920.

AVICULTURE AT THE SCOTTISH ZOOLOGICAL PARK

By F. J. HUNTER

This Park is comparatively new, as the laying out only began in April, 1913 ; it was opened to the public in the following July. Comprising about 74 acres, it is situated about three miles out of Edinburgh on the southern slope of Corstorphine Hill. The site is beautiful, and a glorious view can be obtained from it, with the picturesque Pentland Hills in the distance.

The following notes were made on a dull, cold February day :—

The first enclosure observed was large and open, with a suitable pond and bushes ; it contained Widgeon, Gadwall, and Wild and Muscovy Ducks, all of which were strolling about on land, with the exception of the Ducks, which were thoroughly enjoying a bath in spite of the coldness of the water.

The next enclosure was also large, and contained Bean, White-fronted, Hybrid, Pink-footed, Grey-lag, Cereopsis, Upland, Brent, Canadian and Chinese Geese, and Hybrid and Tufted Ducks. Here the Ducks were again busy, dipping and diving for food from the bottom of the pond. All the birds appeared to be very contented and in excellent condition. Several were sleeping comfortably on the banks, standing on one leg, with their heads well tucked into the plumage

of their backs. Cormorants and Solan Geese shared the next enclosure with a Californian Sea-lion. The birds were standing idly on a rocky shelf, taking no interest whatever in the graceful movements of the Sea-lion as it swam round and round the pond. They were probably patiently waiting for feeding time, for which they are always ready. A still larger, grassy enclosure contained a pair of Emus, who did not appear to be very sociably inclined; one paraded backwards and forwards at the nearer end of the enclosure, while the other took its constitutional at the further limit, with an occasional trip to the railings to gaze at the visitors, probably hoping for some gastronomic delicacy to be offered. The inhabitants of the next enclosure were numerous and varied, and consisted of Black-headed Gulls, White Cranes, Pelicans, Oyster Catchers, Great Skuas, White Storks, Demoiselle Cranes, and Herons. They had a fine home, with grassy floor and bushes and a small pond, and although of such diverse breeds, appear to live in absolute harmony. A small wooden hut, for shelter from extreme weather, is provided, but rarely used. The Pelicans appeared to be suffering from some mild form of irritation on their backs, and were busily scratching with the tips of their long beaks. The most graceful birds in this enclosure were undoubtedly the Demoiselle Cranes, with their delicate grey plumage looking beautifully smooth and clean.

Two large flight aviaries and several smaller ones have been erected in a garden sheltered by high walls. In summer this garden is filled with brightly coloured flowers, and its general appearance is charming. Both flights were well provided with shelter at one end, small tree-trunks with bare branches for the small inhabitants to perch on, and butter-tubs with small entrance-holes hung from the roofs, and which made excellent nesting-places. In one aviary were found the Grey-headed and Black-faced Lovebirds, Budgerigar, and Cockatiel; in the other were Blue and Yellow-fronted Amazon Parrots, Rose-breasted, Leadbeaters, Greater Sulphur-crested and Goffin's Cockatoos, and Blue and Yellow, Red and Yellow, and Red and Blue Macaws—these birds make a beautiful colour show. I was here greeted by a Cockatoo, clinging to the front netting, with a hearty "Hullo, Cocky!" and an invitation to scratch its poll. This I did, discreetly, with the end of my pencil, much, apparently, to the bird's enjoyment. When I stopped

it rubbed its head in a wise, old-fashioned way against the netting, but refused to carry on a further conversation. These aviaries and most of the others were used as restaurants by the ubiquitous Sparrows, who were making hearty meals from the leavings of the legitimate inhabitants. The tree-trunks and branches showed signs of many hours of beak-sharpening, and in some cases the trunks were picked away where they entered the ground, as if a Beaver had been at work.

In one of the smaller aviaries a Senegal Parrot and a Bauer's Parrot were living amicably together, although coming from such far removed countries (the former from West Africa and the latter from Australia). They appeared to be very interested in the human onlookers, as they spent their time running to the middle of the cage for a mouthful of maize and back to the sides to talk to the visitors with their quaint chattering little voices.

Another large aviary was the home of Rosella, Grey-breasted, Pennant's, Red-necked and Alexandrine Parrakeets, and my approach to this was the signal for a lusty and prolonged screeching by the majority of the inmates. Here it was interesting to watch a Robin Redbreast sharing a meal from a small dish of seed with a Red-necked Parrakeet, and neither seemed to notice anything peculiar in the appearance of the other or to object to its company. The old saying that "little birds in their nests agree" can be truly modified, in the case of this Zoo, to "all birds, great and small, in their aviaries agree".

A row of enclosures, constructed of wire-netting stretched on wooden frames and planted with dwarf shrubs, came next. These enclosures were all supplied with the Norwich Automatic Feeder and Exerciser, which probably resulted in a large economy in food. In the first enclosure an Australian Brush Turkey was sharing its meal with a large Rat and two Thrushes, and here, again, as there was food for all, neither took exception to the presence of the others.

Razor-billed Curassows occupied the next enclosure. One was roosting in a small covered shelter, apparently asleep or deeply thinking, and the remainder were strutting gaily around their boundaries. Next door to these were living some Amherst Pheasants, whose beautiful plumage was quite unaffected by the dirty weather. Next came some Hybrid and Prince of Wales Pheasants, and then

Golden Pheasants, whose gorgeous colours made a delightful contrast to the drab surroundings. Then came Silver Pheasants, with their long, graceful tails unsoiled in spite of the muddy nature of the ground. A Peacock and Peahen paraded proudly around these enclosures, the cock with its train fully expanded as if to show the other birds what a very superior creature it was.

Another large, open, grassy enclosure contained two Rheas, looking somewhat bedraggled, but not worried at all by this, and busily disposing of worms which had foolishly come to the surface. A small enclosure, with pond and rocky banks, held some Moorhens and Curlews, and just beyond stood the mansion-house of the estate, which serves as a club for the Fellows of the Society, and as refreshment-rooms for the general public.

Beyond this, again, the birds of prey are housed, the first being the Griffin Vultures, who looked very alert and very ready and willing to attack anything that might come within reach. A Golden Eagle was the sole occupant of one cage, and the name appeared somewhat inappropriate, as its colouring was a dingy black, with no apparent sign of gold. Two Wedge-tailed Eagles were in the next compartment sitting most affectionately together with a look of innocence and harmlessness somewhat foreign to their real natures. Next door lived a fine Raven, who on my arrival at once remarked, "What do you want?" and in spite of my explaining fully the reason of my visit, still repeated the question.

Lastly, in a large enclosure, the floor of which consisted of shelving rock, with growing clumps of coarse grass, forming an excellent background for the birds, were living a fine group of King Penguins and one Black-footed Penguin. Some were received from South Georgia early in 1914, and the others from the same place in February, 1917. These are probably the most interesting birds in the Park to the general public. The amount of food alone which they consume is both interesting and surprising, the adults disposing of from twenty to thirty moderate-sized Herrings in a day. They were standing in their usual stolid, foolish-looking way, with the exception of a "baby" bird, who took an occasional stroll round, at the same time emitting a characteristic weird cry. The Black-footed Penguin looked distinctly

lonely, as the "Kings" did not seem to care to associate with it. The baby, with its fine brown furry coating, was considerably plumper in appearance than its parents, and most unlike them, with their snowy breasts, grey backs, and beautiful orange collars.

There have been many births since the opening of the Park. Two young Rheas were hatched out in 1914, but only one survived. Since then a number of young have been bred. A considerable number of Geese, Ducks, and Pheasants have been reared, and a pair of Tinamous nested, but the eggs were not fertile. A pair of Moorhens have nested twice and hatched—in all, eleven young. A pair of Cockatoos nested twice, but on both occasions the eggs proved infertile. A number of Budgerigars and one Black-faced Lovebird have been reared, and also Californian Quail, Cockatiel, and hybrids between Gadwall and Widgeon.

In 1918 a pair of King Penguins "nested". (This term, although not correct, is used for want of a better one. Penguins make no nest, but the single egg is held, during incubation, upon the feet and covered with a fold of down and feathers of the abdomen. Both sexes share the task of incubation.) The egg was unfortunately broken, probably while changing from one bird to another. On September 1 of last year another egg was laid, and on October 22, seven weeks and four days after, the infant—the present "baby" bird—left the shell. It is almost certain that this is the first time that the King Penguin has bred outside its native haunts, and the occasion has afforded a unique opportunity of observing the habits of these birds.

L'OISEAU: A NEW AVICULTURAL MAGAZINE

By GEORGE JENNISON, M.A.

For many years the *Review of Practical Natural History*, issued as the Bulletin of the Acclimatization Society of France, has been noteworthy for the range and interest of its articles on all valuable living things. The contributors include the best scientific minds in the capital, as well as the most alert of her sons abroad; but the journal

has never fallen under the dominion of the schoolmen, and the information recorded—whether it be a learned research into the History of Dogs, a dissertation on Sardines or Sea-lions, the breeding of Cassowaries, or an enthusiastic support of the *Polygonum saghalinense* as a fodder plant—is always couched in popular language. About a century ago the practical zoologists of Great Britain split from the parent Linnean Society, and a similar need for greater freedom and a wider range has manifested itself in France, not by disruption of the Society, but by division of its activities.

Henceforward the ornithologists, under the presidency of that eminent naturalist M. Delacour, will deal in *L'Oiseau* with everything pertaining to avian life, and especially with birds in parks and cages. A summary of the first number will best convey the scope of the undertaking and the range of its intentions.

The best article is an extremely interesting and informative account of Humming-birds in captivity by M. Delacour. M. G. Dupond describes the troubles of aviculturists in Belgium during the War. Mr. Seth-Smith, whose contribution is illustrated by a good photograph of the Kagus' courtship, shows how the London Zoological Gardens suffered in those days. The rearing of Demoiselle Cranes and hybrids among Diamond Finches are also discussed, and we must specially refer to the acute observations of Dr. Millet-Horsin on the seasonal illnesses of birds in Senegal, and the means of prevention. The arrivals of birds in France and other interesting information will appear in each month's *Ornithological Chronicle*, and the advertisements put members in the way of obtaining birds not always available on our markets.

Subscription 25 francs, or 15 francs to members of the Société d'Acclimatation, which at the present rate of exchange costs £5 10s. for life membership.



Photo by F. M. Thomson.

Courtesy of Lord Tavistock

A NEW GUINEA RARITY:
THE BLACK PARROT (*DASYPTILUS PESQUETI*).

PARROTS

By the late O. E. CRESSWELL

(Kindly communicated by Miss FRANCES CRESSWELL.)

(Continued from p. 49.)

(b) *The Tameability and Affection of Parrots.*—This to some extent goes without saying, but I must confess that their affection is usually tempered both with caprice and jealousy. I know cases of Parrots which adore human beings of the female sex and hate those of the other, and *vice versa*. Dr. Russ, the great ornithologist of Berlin, advises that when a Parrot arrives anybody who wishes to enjoy its affection should not unpack it, so lasting is often the bird's antipathy to the person with whom it associates the discomfort of being dragged out of a packing-case! The jealousy of Parrots is proverbial. Several of my own make conversation with friends impossible from mere jealousy. My Indian Ring-necked Parrakeet "Duleep" often makes one realize how appropriate was the saying of a gifted authoress to a lady of my acquaintance who took to writing to her daily: "My dear, do learn to love wisely and not too well!"

(c) As regards the exquisite beauty and variety of the plumage of the Psittacidæ, there can scarcely be two opinions. Of all the multitude of species which I have seen either alive or stuffed I can only recall three which I do not admire. They are the Black Vasa Parrot of Madagascar, the great Black Goliath Cockatoo of New Guinea, and the Kea or Mountain Parrot of New Zealand. This bird seems to be the connecting-link between the Parrot and Vulture tribe.¹ A more unpleasant sight than these Nestors at the Zoo continually riving at lumps of raw meat I have seldom seen.

I pass to the second part of my paper, the geographical distribution of the Psittacidæ. I may preface this section with observing what you probably all know—that there are no Parrots in Europe. I propose to take in order the other four divisions of the globe, viz. the three great continents, including in each the circumjacent islands, and fourthly the vast island of Australia, which, with the islands grouped comparatively near it, we commonly call Australasia. I propose to give

¹ [Oh!—G. R.]

a brief account of the most marked and interesting races of Parrots which inhabit each. That this account must be very superficial you will readily grant when I tell you that the number of recorded species of the Psittacidæ, according to the British Museum catalogue, is now 496, and that the number of those which are more or less known as cage birds is over 100. Though I have disclaimed all attempts to affect the scientific in this paper, I hope that this grouping is in no way unscientific, for with one or two very slight exceptions there is no confusion of the races which inhabit the different continents, no overlapping of the areas of distribution.

I will at once state the exceptions which occur to me. Firstly, many species of Cockatoos are found in the East Indies, others in Australia and neighbouring islands. Secondly, in Africa there occur some Ring-necked Green Parrakeets scarcely distinguishable from the well-known Indian Ring-necked species. Such partial and rare exceptions strongly prove the general rule which I have laid down.

The cradle of human origin and civilization is also the continent on which in all probability Parrots were brought into captivity, centuries before they were taken in Africa, and at least 2,000 years before the discovery of the New World. The first mention of tame Parrots I do not pretend to state. It has sometimes been thought that the birds which the ships of King Solomon brought from Tarshish, and which our version of the Bible translates Peacocks, were really Parrots. There is little doubt that Alexander the Great imported to Europe Parrots which he found in captivity in the East. One of the Indian Ring-necked Parrakeets is still called the Alexandrine—probably the race which he brought back, and that race alone was known to the Greek and Roman worlds for ages afterwards—the little Green Ring-necked Bengal Parrakeet. But I am anticipating, and had better first give you a rough list of the Asiatic genera. The part of Asia inhabited by them includes most of Hindustan, Burmah, the Malay Peninsula, and the great islands of the Oriental Archipelago.

Let me first say a word about a common misapprehension. It is not unnaturally supposed that a Parrakeet is the diminutive of a Parrot. This, in fact, is not so, for many Parrakeets are larger than some Parrots. Parrakeets are long-tailed, Parrots short-tailed.

The four principal genera which I know as inhabitants of Asia are:—

1. The Noble or Ring-necked Parrakeet.
2. The Lories proper.
3. Some of the Cockatoos.
4. Many small Psittacids or Parrotlets often erroneously classed with the Lovebirds.

Among the Ring-necked I may name—

1. The Great Alexandrine.
2. The Malacca.
3. The Rose Malabar, with some very fine tints of colour in addition to the prevailing green of the genus.
4. The very common little Bengal Parrakeet, to which I have already alluded as probably the first of the Psittacidæ imported into Europe.

My “Duleep Singh” is a modest-looking little Parrakeet; still, the varying shades of green are beautiful when looked into, as also is the little red ring. They are jealously affectionate, and fearful screamers in a wild state, but if they do learn to say something say it well and usually cease to scream. It doubtless was on the death of one of them that Ovid wrote his lovely elegy beginning: “*Psittacus Eois imitatrix ales ab Indis.*” Of this tribe is the sweet little Blossom-head—which has local variations—the Indian *cyanocephalus* and the Burmese *rosa*.

The second Asiatic family is that of the Lories proper. They are a short-tailed race of the most gorgeous hues of brilliant crimson, green, and purple. They are rarely talkers, but their fascinating and funny ways and their easy confidence in their owners make them charming pets. They are seldom, however, seen save in the collections of Parrot fanciers, and this for good reason, for by nature they feed on rich ripe fruit and on the honey of tropical flowers. Anything like a diet of seed causes fits and death. It is possible by slow degrees to accustom them to fare far other than their natural diet, and in such a case a Lory, or still better a pair, are a delight to a true bird-lover. Most beautiful birds are the Purple-capped Lory from the Moluccas; the Black-capped or tricoloured Lory; the Ceram Lory, of the richest crimson with brilliant green wings; and the Blue-breasted Lory.

The third Asiatic family are a portion of the Cockatoo race. These are rarely great talkers, but one of the Asiatic species, the great Salmon-crested Cockatoo, often articulates with amazing distinctness. They are nearly all intelligent. I may, perhaps, relate the evidence of this that I had at Bordeaux last autumn. The other Asiatic species are the large all-white Cockatoo of the Moluccas; Goffin's Yellowish Cockatoo from the Solomon Islands; and the little Lemon-crested Cockatoo from the Moluccas, a miniature of the great Australian Lemon-crested.

(To be continued.)

THE PASSING OF THE HONORARY CORRESPONDENCE SECRETARY

By a resolution of the Council the time-honoured post of Honorary Correspondence Secretary, dating as it does from 1903, has been abolished. A familiar announcement thus disappears from the cover of the Magazine.

The Hon. Business Secretary has been empowered to select as Referees various expert members of the Society, who will advise in matters of difficulty, such as the treatment of delicate birds. Thus our work will not be hindered, and we trust to benefit as in the past by the knowledge and experience of our former Correspondence Secretary.

MY EXPERIENCES AS CORRESPONDENCE SECRETARY

By ARTHUR G. BUTLER, Ph.D., etc.

In June, 1903, it was proposed by the Council that I should be appointed Correspondence Secretary to the Society, my chief duty being to answer questions asked by Members relating to the care and feeding of birds in captivity, the identification of birds received from description as far as possible, sex-differences, nesting habits, etc. It was wisely permitted in the case of birds of which I could not pretend

to have had any experience, that I might call upon other members of the Council to reply' to my correspondents.

I had already had some work of this kind, inasmuch as I had been answering queries each week since 1892 in the pages of the *Feathered World* and *Canary and Cage-bird Life*; possibly it was for this reason that I was chosen by the Society to undertake it. Answering questions, however, was not the only work which I willingly undertook. In the early days of the Society all the members of the Executive received proofs of each number of the Magazine for correction, and these were returned to the Editor for his consideration before he sent his final revise to the printers. This plan naturally tended to delay publication, as well as causing a certain amount of irritation, and was eventually set aside; but, as a check upon printer's errors, my willingness to continue to examine proofs was welcomed by the Editor, my fitness for the work since the publication of my first zoological paper in 1865 being probably taken for granted.

To answer questions of various kinds one not only needs a certain amount of practical experience, but also a fairly good library; fortunately I had already acquired the latter, which I considered necessary for a student not actually living in town and so in touch with the libraries of the Linnean, Zoological, and other Societies. But even the possession of many books will not always serve to enable one to answer indefinite queries or partial descriptions of birds. Occasionally I have been requested to give information upon matters which were undoubtedly not ornithological. Some years ago a lady wrote to me, saying that she had seen an answer of mine (she was not one of our Members) respecting a Parrot which had plucked its breast bare of feathers and made it sore, and I had suggested that possibly castor oil rubbed on the breast might check the bad habit and would probably allay the soreness. She said that her hair was growing very thin, and would like to know if castor oil would strengthen it, or if I could recommend some other hair-restorer, as she had tried several without any good results! I replied that hair-restorers were often recommended by persons who were themselves perfectly bald, that I myself only used hot water each morning, and that I had not observed any increase in the tonsure which I had for some years past exhibited, nor had my hair become noticeably greyer.

I once had a very peremptory letter from a hospital nurse, insisting that I should tell her by return of post how to cure her Parrot of feather-plucking. I replied that as she had not enclosed a stamp for reply, and as I was in no way her debtor, I felt that I might reasonably have ignored her communication; the condition of her bird was probably the result of incorrect feeding, and the habit once formed was practically incurable. In answer to this I received a missive full of coarse abuse; if it made the good lady happy, it did not trouble me. Of course, it is not pleasant to have to remind correspondents that they have omitted to enclose stamps, but even before the War pennies mounted up in the course of a year, and I could not expect our Society to pay for postage incurred through non-members seeing copies of our Magazine.

Being Correspondence Secretary was not all pleasant work. Some querists sent me packets of disgorged food and other nastiness, under the impression that this would help in diagnosing the cause of illness in a bird, and although an hour or two in a hospital dissecting-room in the old days certainly did improve my appetite, I cannot say that the receipt of these abominations just before breakfast produced a like effect !

REVIEWS

BIRDS IN TOWN AND VILLAGE. By W. H. HUDSON. pp. ix + 274 and 8 coloured plates. London : J. M. Dent & Sons, Ltd. 1919. Price 10s. 6d. net.

This is a delightfully written book, full of the charm and grace that characterizes Mr. Hudson's writings. Some of us remember the greater portion of this book, viz. the section "Birds in a Village", in a rather different dress; but in its new setting it is certainly improved, and, personally, we wish the author had contented himself with a task well done and omitted the further new matter. For however highly we may esteem the author as an observer of birds in their natural haunts, and for his power and facile manner in bringing home to us the poetry of the countryside, we must refuse to accept him as an authoritative guide when he enters upon the perplexing subject of the economic

status of the Jackdaw or House Sparrow, and also question his conclusions as to the advisability of introducing exotic birds into Great Britain.

Mr. Hudson is an enthusiastic lover of wild birds, but like many such he at times allows his enthusiasm to run away with him to the detriment of his theme, and frequently overlooks the work of others, which is unfortunate.

His severe strictures on the bird-catcher are fully merited by the pursuers of this despicable trade, and we hope the time is not far distant when such a calling will be made illegal.

“ Who delights not in a bird ? ” the author asks, and after a careful perusal of this book there will be few who fail to catch something of its author’s enthusiasm, some of the intense joy that a study of wild birds confers. However beautiful birds may appear in the museum, or as portrayed by the artist, only he or she who has studied them in the leafy woods, amid the swamps and marshes, on the mountain-side, in the sheltered valley, or on the wild sea-coast, really knows how beautiful and interesting they are ; and by all such this book will be read with interest and appreciation.

WALTER E. COLLINGE.

THE HERON OF CASTLE CREEK AND OTHER SKETCHES OF BIRD LIFE.

By ARTHUR WELLESLEY REES ; with a Memoir of the Author by J. K. HODSON, and a portrait. London : John Murray. 7s. 6d. net.

This book is by the author of *Ianto the Fisherman* and *Creatures of the Night*. It consists of a series of studies—principally of bird-life—most of which have previously appeared in a leading London newspaper. While these were being selected for re-issue in book form, the talented author died. A half-promise is given in the Preface that a further issue of Mr. Rees’s work may be published, and we can say at once that we shall welcome it. The articles are graphic, and marked with much literary skill, close observation, and charm. They are faithful and painstaking studies of birds.

The author was a remarkable man, overflowing with energy, and with many varied interests. He started his career as a banker, and became subsequently a clergyman. In his earlier years he was a keen

sportsman; but we read that in time his outlook on life and nature changed, and field-glasses took the place of the gun. He preferred to watch the habits of living creatures, and in these studies he exercised infinite patience. This is obvious when we read about the Kingfishers and their young in "Bird Life in a Western Valley"—which article strikes us as perhaps the best in the book. Mr. Rees entered on the living of Exmoor in 1916 with high hopes, but it is singularly pathetic to relate that his health suddenly failed, and he died in June, 1917, "with his trained powers of observation at their height."

Now and then in these articles we feel the spirit of Richard Jefferies; for example, in "The Changing Year", and still more particularly in "Wild Life and Hard Weather"; for the latter article we have a particularly high regard. The author had a deeper affection for some birds than for others, as many happy little flashlight pictures show. Partridges he calls "our home-loving little 'brown birds', whose presence on a farm is suggestive of all that is idyllic in the rural life of Britain". The Dipper is "the cheery, restless, white-breasted Robin of the brook". The Kingfisher—"the radiant butterfly-bird." The Lark—"the carol of a joyous Lark climbing an invisible stairway to the sky." The Wren—"ever an optimist; in summer and winter alike he is the same cheery philosopher." The Heron—"the lean hermit of the wilds." In one place he pays valuable tribute to the real usefulness of the Dipper.

In the article on the Wood Wren we wish the author had said a good deal more about the song and call-notes of this fascinating little warbler—about that strange, shivering song which thrills through the beech and oak woods in late spring—and about that no less strange "wailing", "melancholy", or "sorrowing" note—as bird students have variously interpreted it—which is particularly in evidence when the young are first launched upon the wing.

"Frequently," says the author, in a wistful yet pleasing way, "I have been struck by this peculiarity in the song of a bird—that it indicates more than a mere exuberance of joy, more than the one simple emotion evident in a melodious call-note, and more than mere wonder, anger, expostulation in the harsh, unmusical note of alarm." The Skylark's carol "cannot be compared with the

outcome of any emotion felt in the human heart. But it is, nevertheless, akin to something that strives within us for utterance". Of the Willow Wren's song, "the low, sweet phrase betokened some exquisite sentiment beyond description, but which I almost believed that sympathy enabled me to understand." And of the Dipper, "Even when the blast is bitter as the breath of death, the stream still sings among the pebbles by the ford. Perhaps, while seeking his food beneath the surface of the water, the Dipper had heard the secret of perpetual happiness whispered by the spirit of the brook—as perhaps the Wren had often heard it whispered by the spirit of the wind through the patter of the hail on the withered oak-leaves in the hawthorn hedge—and for that reason is wholly undismayed. The song of the Wren is, somehow, in keeping with that of the wind, and the song of the Dipper with that of the waterfall."

The brief quotations given are evidence of the intense love which the author had in his heart for wild life. We commend the book to all lovers of the wilds.

JAMES J. CASH.

THE SOCIETY AND NEW ZEALAND BIRDS

DEAR DR. RENSHAW,—Your idea of getting birds from New Zealand is excellent, but I am afraid there are several difficulties. The man to bring back birds would need to be a pushing business man, capable of dealing with all sorts of difficulties, not only in the way of obtaining the birds, but in getting them from various places down to the port and dealing with railway and other unsympathetic people. I know what getting birds means, because I have got many at various times from Iceland.

However, I think that whereas it is most essential that rare birds should be kept from senseless destruction by plumage hunters or dry-as-dust collectors, yet that the Avicultural Society of the old country should have licence to import birds for the benefit of Members, and this argument might be backed up by a statement that the Empire in this respect should be regarded as one, and that New Zealand birds would

be much improved by importation of Black Game, Ptarmigan, etc., which in proper districts would no doubt thrive well.

Notwithstanding the above you might please mention in the Magazine that any little inquiries or investigations that I could reasonably do I should be pleased to undertake.

Yours very truly,

C. BARNBY SMITH.

[We suggest that an investigation into the present status of that rare and threatened bird the Owl Parrot or Kakapo (*Avic. Mag.*, May, 1916) would be of the greatest value. Also any notes on the protection now accorded to the native birds would be welcomed, not only by ourselves, but by the Society for the Protection of the Fauna of the Empire.—G. R.]

WANTED—A BIRD CAMERA

DEAR SIR^d—I wonder whether you could persuade Mr. Berridge or any other photographic expert to give me some information as to the best type of camera for use in securing bird and other animal photos. Something fairly moderate in price but that will give good results is what I am aiming for, not anything elaborate. I shall be most grateful for any information either he or any other member can give me through the medium of the *Avicultural*, and I am sure such information would be of general interest.

Yours truly,

GERALD E. RATTIGAN, Capt.

HYBRID CONURES

DEAR DR. RENSHAW,—I was interested to see in this month's Magazine that Lord Tavistock rather confirms Mr. Seth-Smith's opinion that my Patagonian Parrakeets are hybrids; but the question is hybrids between what? and were they bred in captivity or otherwise? The dealer gave me to understand that they had just been imported from Patagonia with a lot of Blue-crowned Conures. If this latter

bird was one of the parents it is hard to believe that the young hybrids would be so *very much* bigger than either of the parents, as these birds are. If they cross-mated in their country of origin, I don't see what other mating was possible. Anyhow, they are interesting and amusing birds, and I am looking forward to breeding them this season.

Truly yours,
WILLIAM SHORE BAILY.

OUR HON. BUSINESS SECRETARY

We deeply regret to report that the very serious illness of Dr. Lovell Keays notified in our March issue has compelled his resignation from the Secretaryship of the Society. Acting on high professional advice Dr. Keays has retired from all work of every description. The deep sympathy of every Member of the Society will be warmly extended to him.

At a special meeting of the Executive Mr. J. E. Bonhote, M.A., was elected to the vacant office. Mr. Bonhote is well known as an eminent ornithologist and a former Editor of the *Magazine*, and the Society is fortunate in securing his services. Mr. Bonhote has kindly consented to also act as Hon. Treasurer, and will shortly assume office.

The best thanks of the Society are due to Mr. Pocock, our present Secretary, who has now for the third time undertaken these duties. Coming at a time of special strain owing to the absence of Dr. Chalmers Mitchell, his acceptance of fresh work is warmly appreciated by every one of us.

G. R.

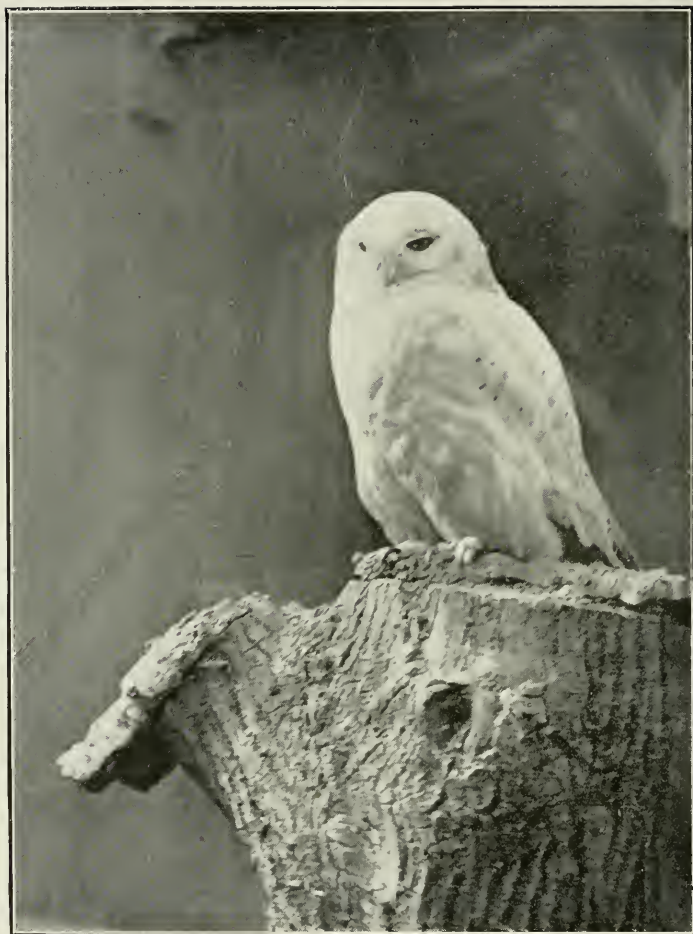


Photo by S. F. S. Rotch.

SNOWY OWL.

To face p. 77.]

THE AVICULTURAL MAGAZINE

BEING THE JOURNAL OF
THE AVICULTURAL SOCIETY
FOR THE STUDY OF
FOREIGN & BRITISH BIRDS
IN FREEDOM & CAPTIVITY

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MAY, 1920.

THE CRY OF OWLS

By AUBYN TREVOR-BATTYE, M.A.

As your correspondent Mr. R. C. Banks invites opinions upon this subject (*Avicultural Magazine*, Vol. XI, No. 3, pp. 39-40), may I venture upon one or two points that occur to me? But first I must join with Mr. T. A. Coward in his defence of Owls' voices (*ibid.*, p. 58). Because the screech of the Barn Owl is strident, as the utterance of its nestlings is wheezy, does it not seem a little unkind to condemn the voices of Owls generally as "raucous"? What about the most beautiful and musical call of the Tawny Owl and the clear bark of the Long-eared Owl? Even the chiding note of a nesting Short-eared Owl is surely no more "raucous" than that, say, of a Hobby under the same conditions; the call of the Little Owl, if monotonous, is quite nice, while the Eagle Owl's full-throated and sonorous "Hoo!" so far from being "very much worse" than all these, is actually one of the noblest of bird voices. But this is by the way. The question is: Why do Owls utter calls likely to make their hunting more difficult? The answer seems to be that they don't, and that these calls make no difference one way or the other—unless, indeed, they may make hunting more easy, in so far as they tend to indifference on the part of the hunted.

Let us take an analogy from human experience—Death. Man looks always out upon death ; it will come to him “some day” ; it will come in old age, the normal and inevitable end. But how seldom does he picture it as coming earlier, sudden and unexpected, to *himself* ! Others have bad luck, there are accidents and so forth, but it is a million to one chance, he thinks, so he just goes along and hopes for the best. When the sword hangs *always* above the reveller, the banquet will go merrily in spite of it. Rabbits will run playing round a fox. (“*Someone* will have to go presently, but it won’t be me.” And then there is a bound and a snap and it just is—*him* !)

And so with the birds and Voles ; they, too, are fatalists. The Starling sleeps peacefully, the Vole goes on with his nightly pursuits, though the woods are ringing with the hooting of Tawny Owls, and Barn Owls are quartering the meadow.

Mice and Voles do not remain motionless for long, nor do they squat (or “freeze” to use Mr. Banks’ word) ; but, if they did, a noise behind them would not make them run, for creatures that assume this practical habit remain perfectly still until all but trodden on, so long as they believe they are not seen.

The summer before last I noticed a Water-rail squatting in a cup-shaped hollow among some watercress. It would not move, though I clapped my hands and tried to make it go. Then I picked up a light stick and dropped it down so that it lay across the cup, supported by watercress, and about 2 inches above the Rail. The bird never moved. I withdrew for about ten paces and watched. The bird could see me and did not move. Going away out of sight I waited for, perhaps, three or four minutes, and then went back. The Water-rail was gone ; it had crept out from beneath the stick, and this still lay exactly as I had placed it.

No one who has watched a Tawny Owl as it sits on a bough listening, and then goes straight off to its quarry, no one who has examined the structure of a Barn Owl’s external ear can doubt that these birds hunt more by hearing than by sight. And in another genus, that of *Asio*, the ear is yet more remarkably developed.

“In *Asio*, containing the Long-eared and Short-eared Owls of Europe, Asia, and America, the conch is enormously exaggerated,

extending in a semicircular direction from the base of the lower mandible to above the middle of the eye, and is furnished in its whole length with an operculum (flap). But what is more extraordinary in this genus is that the entrance to the ear is asymmetrical—the orifice on one side opening downwards and on the other upwards. This curious adaptation is carried still further in the genus *Nyctala*, containing two or three small species of the Northern Hemisphere, in which the asymmetry that in *Asio* is only skin-deep extends, in a manner very surprising, to several of the bones of the head, as may be seen in the Zoological Society's Proceedings (1871, pp. 739–43), and in the large series of figures given by Messrs. Baird, Brewer, & Ridgeway (*N. Am. Birds*, iii, pp. 97–102).”—Newton's *Dictionary of Birds*.

The Barn Owl undoubtedly has a call, other than the screech, which it utters on the wing, and this, though not a true “Ki-wik”, has something of that character. But does Mr. Coward designate the Tawny Owl's “Ki-wik” a “flight call” from personal observation? It may possibly be sometimes uttered in the air during the bird's progress from bough to bough; this is difficult to determine. But normally it is the call of the female at any season, or of both the female and young as they sit about in near proximity. Tawny Owls have a variety of notes. Occasionally in the winter, and always at pairing time, they hold extraordinary conversations, and indulge in what appear to be mutual incriminations, and these remarks could not possibly be syllabled. A night or two since, when several Tawny Owls only were hooting, I was listening to one who entirely and persistently dropped the preliminary note and merely uttered one prolonged loud and level hoot, and this without the tremulo.

COCKATOO-CATCHING IN VICTORIA

By THORNTON SKINNER

When I was travelling in Australia in the year 1890 for reasons of health—having been advised to exchange the English winter for the summer there—I was thrown against a man who had been for years making his living by catching Cockatoos for the market. We

were at that time in Echuca, a northerly town of Victoria, where a fine bridge crosses the Murray into New South Wales. The equipment needed was a pair of good horses and a large buggy, a calico tent, and nets; we also carried a gun apiece, only used for necessary food, Duck especially. The country here is very flat, and is called Riverina. Grain is grown by the free selector, and the birds come to the fields in huge mobs to feed. Our plan was to camp in likely places and watch their habits, note where they fed and drank, and then lay out our nets. These were of the folding type, and covered an area of 16 feet by 30 feet. Concealed in a small trench, they snapped together at a great pace, which we controlled by watching from a "mīa-mīa", or black fellows hut, made of green boughs over a firm structure, all cut on the spot. The nets had to be laid before sunrise, so that we were not seen on the spot to frighten the birds. At the commencement of our time we caught Galahs, a lovely bird of pink and dove-grey; they were in small groups of eight or ten, and sometimes only a pair, and were generally very common. Later we fell in with a mob of Cornilla Cockatoos, which we estimated at about 10,000, and came regularly just after sunrise. We had only two pulls of our nets at this lot, and totalled 150. We were about fourteen days in this camp, a lovely spot beside a dam. The slight valley had been scooped out and the scoopings heaped on the lower end to make this dam, which covered about an acre. The day we happened to catch was one of very hard work, with seventy-five Cockatoos in the nets; one had to be careful in extricating them, the net would be hidden in their feathers and they were hopelessly entangled, so our best plan was to use a knife and free them as quickly as possible. Occasionally one would bite another, but this was the only loss we sustained; our hands got bitten also, but not so much when we learnt how to handle the birds; the noise and commotion just after a catch was an incident not to be forgotten. It was generally past midday by the time we had finished and could get some breakfast. We were most careful of the birds, and put them in boxes with wire fronts not too thick, as the heat is more likely to kill than fright. The whole Cockatoo community is invisible in the middle of the day, camping, when the sun is hottest, in the shade of large trees. We found all Australian birds and

mammals to be most easily tamed, and in a very short period too. We used a call-bird in the nets, and the wild bird will always settle on the ground to windward of it. The dam was full of bird-life. The most interesting were the Laughing Jackass, a large Kingfisher, and his laugh will call the late sleeper. There were a pair of Spur-winged Plovers about, besides a smaller Plover, which worried us in the nets; they paid toll, for we found them a most palatable dish stewed for breakfast, cooked before "rigor mortis" had set in. Duck and Teal were present in a number of varieties, of which I should like to mention one we called the Wood Duck; I believe its proper name is "Maimgeese". This has an exceedingly thick skin, mostly fat, which when cooking naturally bastes it to a turn.

The Minah is another bird we saw a great many of; they were about the size of our Thrush, and would give warning of danger to the whole neighbourhood, which warning would be taken up by birds in all directions and passed on. The Black Cockatoo was one of the handsomest of all. The sulphur crest in contrast to the black made it especially noticeable, but they were very rare in that district. There were a great number of "Magpies" of two species; they had a flute-like whistle, and made their nests on boughs in the open, constructed of ordinary mud and shaped like a basin. We had our call-birds more than once attacked by a large Hawk, the name of which we could not discover, but to give an instance of its rate of flight our nets were made of the best flaxen string, unable to be broken by the hand, but this Hawk flew through it as if it was cotton when we pulled it together to save our call-bird. The Sulphur-crested White Cockatoos were very common, but difficult to catch in any numbers. Huge Cranes, known as "Native Companions", walked the pastures in pairs, and often came within gunshot. Now we only used our guns to supply our table, and not in the neighbourhood where we wished to catch, and then only very sparingly. I once found a locality where a lot of Rosellas had taken to feeding; they are very handsome Parrakeets, and I think of more than one variety. There was no chance here of learning more than the local names of the birds, as books up country are very scarce. The whole time I was camping out—about eleven weeks—was one long holiday, the climate genial and pleasant, and only once did

we have to leave the tent for a dry bed, then we left it standing in a foot of water! Luckily we saw no snakes, but previous to this I did a few weeks' harvesting, when we killed some rather large ones. Often when resting we watched a species of Quail that roosted on the stooks of wheat and copied the call of a number of other birds. I think it was a Lesser Quail.

The water we drank was not good, we boiled it for safety, and only drank tea. We had to drive 30 miles for our bread, and often procured a Murray Cod when near a fishing spot; they are a great luxury well known throughout the south. Now I think I may give one little tale just to end with. We were calling early one morning on a distant neighbour. After breakfast he showed us round; his huts were of bark over rude poles, but weather-proof, and no bigger than 6 by 12 feet. He had an unusually large number of chickens, and knowing he had no way of marketing the eggs I asked him what he did with them. He casually said, "I reckon I feed the dog on them!"

MILESTONES TOWARDS THE PLUMAGE BILL

Communicated by Miss L. GARDINER

- 1868. Professor Newton's protest, at the British Association meeting, against the slaughter of Gulls off the British coast.
- 1869. Sea-birds Preservation Act passed.
- 1876. Professor Newton's protest in the *Times* against the destruction of Egrets and other exotic birds, as demonstrated by the catalogues of the London feather-sales.
- 1885. "Plumage League" formed by Lady Mount-Temple.
- 1886. American Ornithologists' Union Bird Protection Committee organized (New York).
- First Audubon Society formed (Massachusetts).
- 1887. Reports published in the *Auk* (American Ornithologists' Union) of the wholesale slaughter of Herons, Ibis, Spoonbills, and other birds, by plume-hunters in Florida.
- 1889. The Society (now Royal Society) for the Protection of Birds founded primarily as an Anti-plumage-wearing League.

1893. Letter in *Times* from Mr. W. H. Hudson, R.S.P.B., denouncing the murderous millinery of the day, and *Times* leader: "How long will women tolerate a fashion which involves such wholesale, wanton, and hideous cruelty as this?"
1894. Branch of the S.P.B. founded in South Australia.
1896. Sir William Flower, Director of the British Museum (Natural History), draws attention to the fraud by which the nuptial-feathers of Egret and Heron are being sold as "artificial" ospreys. "Thus one of the most beautiful birds is being swept off the earth, under circumstances of peculiar cruelty, to minister to a passing fashion, bolstered up by a glaring falsehood."
1899. Order issued for the discontinuance of the wearing of "osprey" plumes by officers of the British Army, after consideration of statement furnished to Lord Wolseley by the R.S.P.B.
- Stories of "Egret farms" and "shed plumes" circulated by the trade. "The various reports of Egret farms have in each case proved upon investigation to be wholly mythical" (*Auk*, January, 1900).
1900. Indian Branch of the Society for the Protection of Birds inaugurated.
- Circular issued by Indian Government to local Administrations asking for details as to the killing of birds and exportation of plumage.
1902. Exportation prohibited from British India of all bird-skins and feathers, except Ostrich feathers.
- National Association of Audubon Societies founded in New York by Mr. William Dutcher.
1906. Queen Alexandra authorizes the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds to use her name in any way most conducive to the protection of birds, and to make known that Her Majesty never wears "ospreys" and would do all in her power to discourage the cruelty inseparable from the fashion.
1907. Mr. Walter Goodfellow calls attention, at the British Ornithologists' Club, to the practical extermination by plume-hunters of species of the Bird-of-Paradise.

1908. Bill to prohibit the importation of the plumage of wild birds into Great Britain drafted by the R.S.P.B., with the support of representatives of the British Museum (Natural History), Royal Society, Linnean Society, Zoological Society of London, Selborne Society, and Mr. James Buckland. Introduced into the House of Lords by Lord Avebury, May 5. Considered by a Select Committee, which heard evidence from twenty-one witnesses for and against. Passed with strengthening amendments, July 21. Introduced into House of Commons by Lord Robert Cecil, and read a first time, July 22. End of session prevented further progress.

Story of "moulted plumes" revived by the trade in a letter signed "Leon Laglaize"; complete refutation by naturalists published by the R.S.P.B.

Exportation prohibited from British New Guinea of skins and feathers of Birds-of-Paradise and Crowned Pigeons.

1909. Bills to prohibit the importation into Great Britain of the feathers of certain birds, introduced by Sir William Anson and by Mr. Ramsay Macdonald. Blocked.

Pictures of "The Story of the Egret" published and exhibited by the R.S.P.B.

1910. International Ornithological Congress passes a resolution affirming the necessity for laws prohibiting the importation of plumage into European countries.

Appointment by the Colonial Secretary (the Earl of Crewe) of a Committee to consider the best means of preventing the slaughter of birds by plume-hunters throughout the British Empire.

Editions of "The Story of the Egret" published in France, Holland, Belgium, Denmark, Spain, and Italy. Bill to prohibit the sale of the plumage of certain birds brought in by Mr. Percy Alden. Blocked.

1911. Importation and exportation of the skins and plumage, raw or manufactured, of scheduled birds, prohibited in the Commonwealth of Australia. (The scheduled birds include the principal birds used by the plume-trade.)

“Feathers and Facts” published by the R.S.P.B. for the purpose of refuting trade assertions by a recapitulation of proved facts.

Announcement made on the eve of Queen Mary’s visit to India that Her Majesty, “who has never worn a real aigrette, has read letters referring to the subject of the protection of the bird from which this is obtained, and has given special instructions that nothing of the kind must be employed in her millinery.”

Mr. Alden again introduces his Bill in the House of Commons. First reading carried by 326 to 48. Blocked.

1912. Ligue Française pour la Protection des Oiseaux started by the Société d’Acclimatation de France.

Sir Harry Johnston urges in the *Times* the extreme importance to man of the protection of insect-eating birds now destroyed by the plume-trade.

Mr. Alden’s Bill reintroduced. Withdrawn.

Bill introduced by Mr. Alden to prohibit the sale of the plumage of any species of wild bird, individuals of which have their habitat in any part of Greater Britain. Blocked.

1913. Earl Curzon of Kedleston and Sir Harry Johnston speak at the annual meeting of the R.S.P.B. on the feather-trade and its ravages.

Bill to prohibit importation of plumage introduced by Mr. Page Croft.

Cabinet Committee formed to consider legislation on the plumage question.

Government Bill to prohibit the importation of the plumage of all wild birds introduced by the Right Hon. C. E. Hobhouse (August 4).

Importation of all skins and plumage of wild birds, raw or manufactured, into the United States, prohibited by clause in the United States Tariff Bill.

1914. Government Bill reintroduced by Mr. Hobhouse, February 13. Read a second time by 297 votes to 15 (March 9). Passed through Committee, May 19. Dropped on outbreak of War.

Resolution passed by Women's International Congress calling for legislation in all countries to prevent the destruction of birds for millinery purposes (May 9).

- 1916. Resolution carried at the annual meeting of the R.S.P.B. calling upon the Government to prohibit entirely the importation of wild birds' plumage as a useless and undesirable import and a wholly indefensible form of extravagance.
- 1917. Importation of all plumage prohibited by Board of Trade proclamation, February 23.
- 1919. Deputation from the R.S.P.B. received by the President of the Board of Trade (Sir Auckland Geddes), who, in reply, expresses the hope that permanent legislation may be obtained, possibly at the beginning of next year.

Restrictions on importation of plumage removed in common with restrictions on all other imports, September 1.

Sir Auckland Geddes states in House of Commons (August 18) that the object would be better attained by special legislation than by an adaptation of the import restrictions; and (November 11) that a BILL HAS BEEN DRAFTED, but in view of the pressure of Parliamentary business no date for its introduction can be named.

A VICTORY FOR AVICULTURE: THE PENGUINS OF MACQUARIE ISLAND

We have received the following from the London Correspondent of the *North Queensland Register* :—

“ At the Brisbane congress of the Royal Australian Ornithologists' Union Mr. C. Lord (Tasmania) emphasized the necessity for the Macquarie Island being made a sanctuary for the preservation of the Penguin. Captain White (South Australia) moved that this union is of the opinion that Macquarie Island should be declared a sanctuary for the perpetuation of the fauna of the Antarctic. He said that the Federal Government proposed to buy the island from Tasmania,



Photo by G. E. Love.

PUFFINS AT HOME.

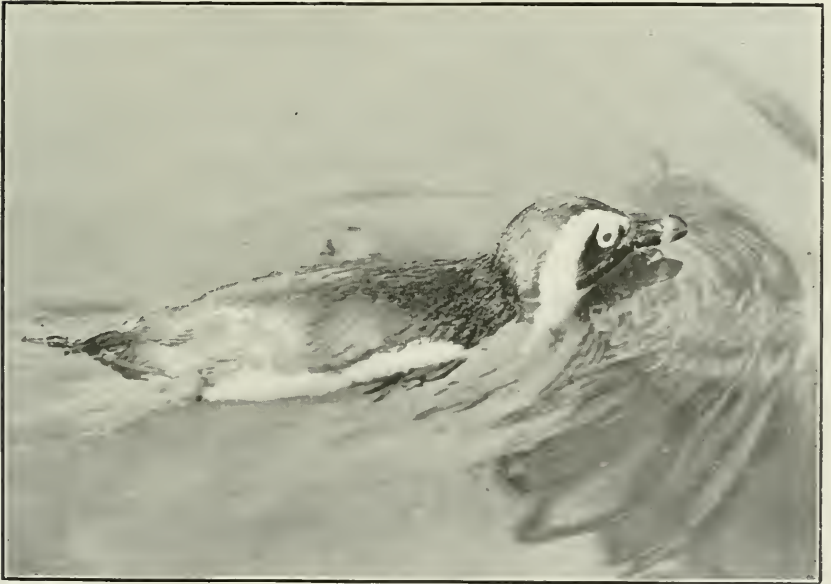


Photo by E. R. Sanborn.

Courtesy of Dr. Hornaday.

BLACK-FOOTED PENGUIN SWIMMING.

To face p. 86.

which asked £15,000 for it. This was rather high, seeing that the island was leased for £40 a year for private exploitation. Dr. Mawson had said there would very soon be a dash into Antarctica to secure its furs and oils, and it was very desirable that the Federal Government should step in and make a sanctuary on Macquarie Island. Mr. Lord seconded the motion, which was carried, and the Council was empowered to take action even to the expenditure of funds to secure the object of the motion."

Our sister association, the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds, now reports as follows in *Bird Notes and News* :—

"The long-continued efforts of the Society on behalf of the persecuted Penguins of Macquarie Island have at last borne the fruit desired. It is announced that the Government of Tasmania has refused to renew the lease of the island to Mr. Joseph Hatch and his oil company, which for years has been massacring the birds at the rate of a million and a half a year for the sole purpose of boiling them down for their oil. It may be remembered that as long ago as 1905 a resolution carried at the International Ornithological Congress, at the instigation of the Society, was cabled to the Tasmanian Government protesting against the business ; but unhappily the lease was later on renewed. Letters of remonstrance and appeal have since been addressed by the R.S.P.B. to the New Zealand and Tasmanian Governments, and to the Prime Minister of the Commonwealth. The subject was again brought forward last March at the Annual Meeting of the R.S.P.B. ; Mr. Mattingley, the Society's representative in Australia, offered his services to go over and investigate the facts ; Mr. Pycraft ventilated the matter in the Press ; Mr. H. G. Wells made it the subject of a powerful passage in *The Undying Fire* ; Sir Douglas Mawson spoke strongly upon it before the Zoological Society of London ; Mr. Cherry-Garrard roused public opinion through *The Times* and the *Spectator*. At last the hideous slaughter is brought to an end.

" ' We venture to hope,' says *The Times* (December 29, 1919), ' that a further step will be taken, and that means will be found to make Macquarie Island an inviolable sanctuary for Antarctic life.' "

PARROTS

By the late O. E. CRESSWELL

(Communicated by Miss Frances Cresswell.)

(Continued from p. 68.)

The last (fourth) of the Asiatic Psittacidæ to which I would allude are the beautiful little Parrotlets of Ceylon, the Malay Peninsula, and the Great Islands. They are Parrots of the tiniest dimensions and most elegant form. They are rarely seen in captivity, simply, I believe, because they rarely survive the voyage. Some of the most interesting of them are the Hanging Parrakeets, who spend almost their whole time hanging head downwards from twigs or in cages from their perches. The few which do reach these shores are generally sold as "Lovebirds", which they much resemble; they must not, however, be compared with the Lovebirds proper of Africa. The latter all have broad tails when spread out. These Parrotlets of Asia, as well as those from South America, have pointed tails.

I pass to the African Continent. This is not really rich in Parrots, unless we consider that the amazing talent of the Grey Parrot makes up for the few species which inhabit the great continent, and its adjacent island Madagascar. Of the larger Parrots the only species I can trace are: in Madagascar, the Great Black Vasa, to which I have already alluded; the famous Grey, from the south and south-west regions; the short-tailed particoloured Senegal Parrot; and the Green Ring-necked Parrakeet (similar to the Bengal Parrakeet, but a trifle larger), which is found in Senegambia and eastward across the Continent.

Of the Lovebirds proper (*Agapornis*) there are seven species—four of the greatest rarity and three which are well known:—

1. The Madagascar, the cock of which has a pearl-grey head.
2. The well-known species with red heads and particoloured tails from the west coast.
3. The Peach-faced, somewhat larger, but similar species from Abyssinia.

A peculiarity of the Lovebirds is that they—at least, I believe the hens alone do it—carry up stuff for the lining of their nests in the feathers of their tails. The vast family of Parrots is almost at one in

depositing eggs in the bare bottoms of trees ; any exception to this rule is therefore of interest.

We come now to the New World. When first the great explorers of the fifteenth century set foot on American soil, of all the wonders of the New World nothing can have struck them more than the marvellous beauty of the feathered tribe. In North America we have but one Parrot, the Carolina Conure. Central America, South America, and the West Indian Islands are rich in gorgeous examples of the tribe. I will select the three most important tribes of this Continent for brief description. They are the Macaws, the Amazons, and the Conures.

We probably all know the Macaws, at one time looking so quiet in their solemn stateliness and then nearly cracking the drums of our ears with their piercing shrieks. They are natives of the vast forests of Brazil and Guiana, and in a natural state, as in captivity, are most destructive. I have already alluded to their great power of varying their voice and imitating the tones of individual human utterances. An anecdote is told of a raw Austrian recruit who was brought to Vienna ; he saw a Grand Military Macaw standing solemn and motionless on a stand ; he walked round and round it gaping. At last the bird said " You blockhead ". The frightened recruit saluted humbly, and gasped out " I beg your honour's pardon ; I thought you were a bird ! "

The Macaws are very many ; about six species are often imported. First and greatest, not so often seen as others, is the Hyacinthine—as its name implies, of blue shades. A gigantic bird, the largest of the Psittacidæ, it has not the bare skin on the face seen in most Macaws. Then there is the well-known Blue and Orange species ; the Green or Noble Macaw, with a dash of crimson on the wing ; the splendid Military Macaw of green tones, with rich red tail ; the still more gorgeous Red and Blue Macaw, with dashes of green ; least in size of the great tribe is Illigers, but not least, I think, in interest or intelligence. A specimen of mine began captive life under evil influence ; he went to a dealer because his master went to prison ; he came to me because the dealer owed me money and could not pay it ; I neglected his education because I did not want a Macaw ! He is entirely a self-made person—says many things in many voices—is very affectionate, though a little uncertain—and after learning all the Cockie used to say has practically silenced him from his jealousy.

The Amazons are a numerous race, and as I have already said, the closest rivals in speech of the Greys. They have, too, this advantage, that they are not subject to the mysterious fever to which multitudes of the latter succumb. They are Parrots proper, *Psittaci* with short tails, and their home is tropical South America, with the exception of one small and pretty species, the white-fronted Cuban Amazon. By far the best known is the Blue-fronted, which is almost always a more or less proficient talker; others are the Festive Amazon, green with a red back and forehead; Le Vaillants, or the Double-fronted, which has a yellow head and neck; the Yellow-naped; the Mealy, the latter all green with a bloom on its plumage which the French call *poudré*.

The last American race to which will I allude are the Conures or Wedge-tailed Parrots. They all have fairly long tails for their size, but differ vastly in colour, dimensions, and characteristics. Few of the many species talk; but one, the Patagonian Conure (my specimen of which is probably known to most of you from the power of his lungs) is often a fair speaker. The tribe is remarkable for this, that whereas one species, the Patagonian Conure, is found farther south than any other Parrot even, i.e. at the Straits of Magellan, another, the Carolina Conure, is the one Parrot of North America, and has been found as far north as Ontario.

(To be continued.)

REVIEW

HANDLIST OF THE BIRDS OF EGYPT. By M. J. NICOLL, F.Z.S., M.B.O.U. pp. xii, 119, with map and 31 plates (8 coloured). Cairo: Government Press. 1919.

Since Shelley's *Handbook* is now out of date and has also become somewhat scarce, we are pleased to be able to recommend to the bird-loving visitor to Egypt, as well as to the ornithologist, this work from the pen of one so competent to write on the subject as the Assistant Director of the Egyptian Zoological Service.

The work, however, is more than a mere list, as in addition to giving the status of each of the 436 species and subspecies recorded as having occurred in Egypt, Mr. Nicoll has added a short diagnosis of each form,

which should, in most cases, prove sufficient for a preliminary identification. In this connexion we may, perhaps, be permitted to point out one error. The collar of the adult Ringed Plover is stated to be black in summer and brown in winter; whereas the brown collar is a mark of immaturity. The same statement is made respecting the Little Ringed Plover.

We regret that Mr. Nicoll has to record the virtual extinction in Egypt of the Egyptian Plover, which was probably the most characteristic and beautiful bird in the country, though, by way of compensation, we note that the Buff-backed Egret has increased in numbers since it has received protection from the plume-hunters.

Newton, basing his conclusion on the character of its very limited resident avifauna, included Egypt in the Ethiopian region, whereas Wallace and Mr. Nicoll assign it to the Palæarctic. The great interest of the ornithology of Egypt lies in the fact that the Nile Valley is a main highway of migration between the Palæarctic and Ethiopian regions, and that into it converge both Eastern and Western Palæarctic forms. We hope that in the near future Mr. Nicoll will be able to give us fuller particulars of migration in Egypt than he has been able to cite in the present work.

The book is illustrated with eight somewhat inartistic coloured plates, and twenty-four black and white ones from photographs of skins. These latter include an interesting series of eleven plates of the species of Chats occurring in Egypt. It would, however, have been well if the exact *provenance* and dates of collection of the specimens figured had been given.

W. EAGLE CLARKE.

WANTED—A BIRD CAMERA

DEAR DR. RENSHAW,—It is somewhat difficult to advise Capt. Rattigan on the choice of a natural history camera without knowing exactly the branch of the work he desires to take up.

If he wishes to specialize in what one may term the “wait and see” branch, entailing the use of hiding tents and other forms of camouflage, a stand camera is frequently more useful than a hand camera. Should he wish, however, to take up more general work,

embracing subjects varying from an elephant to a bird-eating spider, there is only one form of camera, namely the "reflex", that can be recommended. It must be borne in mind, however, that no matter what type be selected, it is the lens that is the all-important part. This should work at an aperture of not less than *f.* 5·6, and by preference *f.* 4·5.

The camera itself should embody a focal-plane shutter. A revolving back to obviate the necessity of removing the dark slide when it is desired to change the plate from an upright to a horizontal position, and a double extension focussing rack, enabling one to photograph small objects, such as beetles, fish, butterflies, etc., at a distance of a foot or less, are desirable additions.

Reflex cameras and good lenses are rather expensive. I think about £15 would be about the figure at present prices for a quarter-plate camera, but good second-hand ones are often obtainable.

Should Capt. Rattigan care to communicate with me direct, I shall be pleased to go into matters more fully.

Yours faithfully,

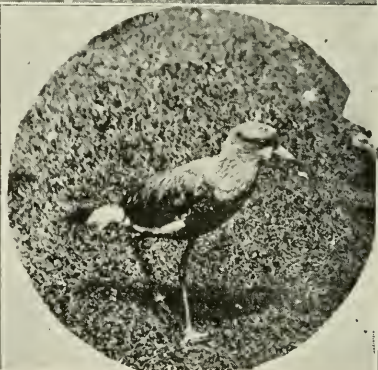
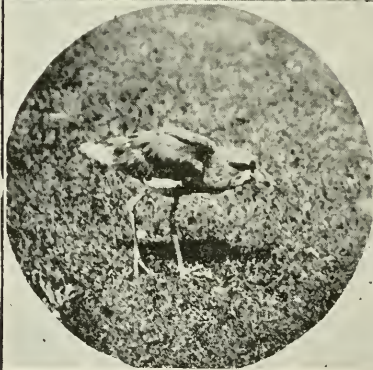
W. S. BERRIDGE.

24 FORTISMERE AVENUE,
MUSWELL HILL, LONDON, N. 10.

WE deeply regret to report the death of the Duchess of Bedford, Vice-President of the Society. In former days she frequently attended the Council meetings, and her writings on Avicultural subjects are well known to all of us. Her death leaves our Science the poorer by the loss of an able ornithologist.

OUR HON. SECRETARY AND TREASURER

Mr. J. L. Bonhote has now taken over the Secretaryship and Treasurership of the Society, *vice* Messrs. Pocock and Ezra. His address is Park Hill House, Park Hill, Carshalton. All communications apart from editorial matter should be in future addressed to him.



1, 3, 4, *Courtesy of Mrs. Gregory.* 2, *Photo by Graham Renshaw, M.D.*

REVIVED AVICULTURE: SOME DESIRABLE BIRDS.

- 1, A Pet Trumpeter. 2, Long-Tailed Glossy Starling.
3, 4, Patagonian Lapwing.

THE AVICULTURAL MAGAZINE

BEING THE JOURNAL OF
THE AVICULTURAL SOCIETY
FOR THE STUDY OF
FOREIGN & BRITISH BIRDS
IN FREEDOM & CAPTIVITY

Third Series.—Vol. XI.—No. 6.—*All rights reserved.*

JUNE, 1920.

FULL CIRCLE: REVIVED AVICULTURE

The *Avicultural Magazine* was founded in 1894 to promote the study of British and foreign birds in freedom and captivity. It is with regard to the scope of our journal that the Editor desires to speak, and to deal with matters that have long been on his mind.

The dual nature of the Society's activities—being devoted to birds “in freedom and captivity”—of course, regulates both the amount and the nature of the copy received. Thus one number may tend more to field notes, while another is mainly devoted to purely avicultural work, speaking in the restricted sense of the aviary and bird-room. In order that in each issue there may be “something for everybody” the contents are varied as much as possible, and occasionally matters of the moment are touched upon if they appear to be of essential importance. Thus, in recent numbers reference has been made to the Plumage Bill; at first sight this may seem a far from avicultural subject, but it is, of course, of the highest moment to support any form of bird protection, since the extermination of any species postulates its disappearance for ever from our aviaries. What would one not give for accurate notes on the nesting of the Dodo, the juvenal plumage of the Réunion Starling, or the egg of the Labrador Duck?

During the War more purely avicultural science was in abeyance, owing to the practical closing of the bird market and the absence of many aviculturists on active service. There was no means of replacing

pre-War specimens as they gradually died off ; in the end scarcely anyone had any birds at all, the largest collections became a shadow of their former selves. Under these circumstances strictness was relaxed, and all contributions that could in a broad sense be called avicultural were accepted.

With the coming of peace and the withdrawal of import restrictions it was hoped to restore the original character of the Magazine. Thus the report of the Council (*Avic. Mag.*, December, 1919) suggests that as opportunities for restocking their depleted aviaries occurred members would have no difficulty in supplying the Editor with articles or paragraphs on aviculture. Material is not lacking ; it is well known that the post-War importations of birds were readily bought up even at post-War prices, and that the reopened market is well patronized at the present time. Already the pendulum is moving, and excellent avicultural papers of pre-War standard have begun to appear. Birds of Paradise, Parrots, Owls, Kagus, and Woodpeckers have recently occupied these pages, to the pleasure and profit of all of us.

Now we ask for more and more purely avicultural papers, to complete the reconstruction so well begun. We want to fulfil the original purpose of the Magazine. We want the possessors of new stock to write about it ; there is very much to learn about common birds even, and the humble Waxbill and Avadavat is by no means to be despised. Then the fortunate owners of rarities, Cassowaries, Trogons, Sun Bitterns—we know such gentlemen exist—would much benefit our science if they would put pen to paper. Our Society includes many veteran aviculturists of wide experience besides its younger members, and it would indeed be excellent to join forces for the common good. All contributions will be carefully considered, and those who may not care to write a paper could at any rate contribute an avicultural note.

Such co-operation would not only hasten recovery, but materially lighten the labours of the Editor. When all is said, it is the contributors who make the Magazine, who hold its future in their hands, who determine its character. *We believe that a full return to pre-War aviculture is the wish of every member of the Society*, but the speed of the return is determined by the nature of the papers submitted, and *no Editor can print papers if members do not write them*. Wholly

dependent upon his contributors, he cannot evolve papers and articles out of thin air.

Every former Editor will agree that this historic chair is by no means a bed of roses. The editing of the Magazine (now thanks to its contributors one of the leading natural history journals of the world) is no sinecure, and by no means consists, as is popularly imagined, of stringing together in haphazard fashion more or less suitable articles. Only the best work is worth doing, and to produce a journal compatible with the time-honoured traditions of the Society demands constant and exacting labour. To all the normal disabilities are now added the trials of post-War editing, a disconcerting novelty unknown before the War, though accepted as in the day's work ; happily months of War experience prove a great resource. The Editor gives his services during the intervals of a life devoted to the most exacting of all professions ; this is done willingly, but it is seemly that the facts should be known.

Contributors are asked to strengthen the hands of the Editor (and we believe the Council to be also favourable) by continuing the output of more purely *avicultural* "copy". The post-War specimens are certainly somewhere ; we suggest that on account of the high prices now obtaining they are largely in the aviaries of our wealthier members, and it is to them more particularly that Aviculture looks for pioneer observations on rare birds. Regarding commoner species, if the Magazine is to be really and truly the journal for beginners, records of successes (or almost equally interesting failures) are the order of the day.

We believe the present number to be the most purely avicultural issue that has appeared since the Armistice. We hold that it is no part of an Editor's duty to be garrulous, but rather to be silent and self-effacing, but the present is the time to speak, and although reconstruction has been slow we trust that it is sure, and that the house at last set in order will so continue. We have before us many of the pre-War volumes of the Magazine, edited by Mr. Astley and his predecessors ; they are full of excellent articles and notes, hints on feeding, housing, breeding, avicultural news in the best style. It is to this standard that we now suggest approximation, infusing new life into the Magazine, so that the future shall be brighter than the past.

THE NESTING OF FRASER'S EAGLE OWL (*BUBO FRASERI*)

By E. F. CHAWNER

I feel that this title is somewhat misleading, for my bird has no mate, and therefore the "nesting" must perforce stop short before the really interesting part begins. For all that it may be as well to record the attempt, for as far as I know this species has not previously gone to nest in England. Moreover, my bird is so extraordinarily tame that all her ways can be noted.

When I bought her in 1912 she was still in nestling plumage; an egg was dropped in 1918, but she did not attempt to sit. This year she called loudly and persistently a shrill single hoot, from the middle of January onwards, and evidently desired a mate, but unfortunately none was procurable. On March 5 I found her on the floor of her house with an egg which she intended to incubate, but as it is the duty of the male bird to prepare the "scrape" none was provided, and the egg rolled about and would inevitably have been broken. She made no objection to my making a scrape for her in a dry secluded corner of the aviary, the floor of which is of coarse sand, and when I placed the egg in it she followed and I left her quietly sitting. This egg is of the usual Owl type, round and white, rather large, about the bigness of a Leghorn hen's egg.

She sits very steadily, and has settled down to a regular routine. I go to her about noon, and we exchange a few remarks and caresses, after which I give her a mouse or a few morsels of rabbit, which she takes from my hand. Presently she comes off the nest and flies to her perch, where she preens and stretches herself, in the sun if possible. In about ten minutes' time she flies back to her egg, alighting about a yard from it, and walks to the scrape, turns the egg and settles down with it between her legs, with her talons carefully folded on either side of it. Normally I suppose there would be two eggs in a clutch, but I do not know whether youth or the absence of the male is responsible for only one being laid in this case.

She takes very little food, one mouse or a sparrow in twenty-four hours (though more is provided it is not touched), and she likes to have

it broken up for her, which I suppose would normally be done by her mate when he returned from hunting; unlike my other Owls she neither drinks nor bathes at this time, though when not incubating she regularly uses her bath. If strangers come near she dashes angrily at them, but she will let me sit beside her and stroke her, and even put my hand under her and feel the egg.

I suppose this Owl inhabits sandy or desert districts, for the tawny plumage of the head and back, barred and flecked with black, would be practically invisible in either sand or dry yellowish grass, and the ear tufts would heighten the resemblance.

It is greatly to be hoped that I shall succeed in obtaining a mate for my bird, and that next year the rearing of young can be recorded.

BIRDS OF PARADISE IN CAPTIVITY

By A. S. LE SOUEF, Director of the Taronga Zoological Park, Sydney

Taronga Park was fortunate in securing several Birds of Paradise in November, 1916. There were six different kinds—Raggi's, Magnificent, King, Six-wired, Superb, and the Albert Rifle-bird; while a pair of Blue Birds of Paradise were afterwards received on deposit. They were rather rough when received, and had started to moult, two or three being lost before this ordeal was over.

They were placed in two large wire aviaries, divided according to size, for they are pugnacious, and the larger kinds will kill smaller birds and eat them. The Six-wired, Magnificents, Superbs, and Kings were placed together, and got along very well, but a collection of Finches in the same enclosure was gradually caught and eaten by the Six-wired.

All the birds proved remarkably hardy, but not good Zoo exhibits, as they stick to cover for most of the day, only coming into the open during the early morning and in the evening. They cannot stand much sun or light, and experience shows that they require a closed-in compartment where they can sit during the day in semi-darkness. All the birds here that have not done well that I have been able to trace have been in enclosures that were insufficiently covered.

Adequate cover and protection from the light is in my opinion one of the most important considerations in the successful keeping of these birds.

Moulting is, as may be imagined, a severe task in the *Paradiseidæ*, and the losses we have sustained have been during that period. The moult starts about November and continues until April; when the young feathers are growing the birds come into the bright sunlight in the morning and thoroughly sun different parts of the plumage, straining themselves into special positions for perhaps half an hour at a time in order to let the sun play on some particular spot, and this is the only time that I have seen them enjoy the sun. Another peculiarity is that during the early moult, when they are almost bare of feathers, they like to roost in the open. If a sudden storm catches them and they cannot regain cover they are killed, so that special precautions have to be taken to prevent this.

Our birds are fed on a variety of food, including hard-boiled egg, crushed hemp, cake, apples, bananas, raw meat, and occasionally white earth grubs and mealworms. The food is generally mixed together and made rather dry, so that fermentation will not take place in the very hot weather.

During the breeding-season the birds become very active, and in the case of the *raggianas* very noisy, each species having quite a different love display. The *raggianas* partially raise their plumes and very rapidly flutter their wings, keeping the head low; sometimes the plumes are raised, but only for a moment. The Blue Bird of Paradise hangs under the bough on which the female is sitting, and works the feathers of the under parts in a rhythmic motion, at the same time uttering a croak. The most peculiar display is given by the Magnificent. In this he depresses the body and makes himself into a long pear shape, or like a lady with a full bottom skirt; at the same time the yellow fan-like plumes at the back of the head are raised; this will suddenly be altered, the neck plumes lowered and the body broadened by spreading all the plumes laterally, and the head is depressed into the body so that he then looks like a spinning top upside down. There must be a very complete set of muscles under the skin to work this change.

The Six-wired loves to play about under a small bush, generally with a small stick; he dances and prances about in a most absurd manner, occasionally raising breast and abdominal plumes so that from the front he looks like a ball of feathers.

These birds are only of special interest for a comparatively short time of the year, and for only a part of the day even then. One seldom sees the wonderful beauty of their fantastic plumage, more especially in the darker varieties, which require a special light, which they seldom enter, to show off the colours.

THE GREY PARROT

By A. G. BUTLER, Ph.D.

It was with great pleasure that I was reminded of our late member, Mr. O. E. Cresswell, by the appearance in the March number of the Magazine of the commencement of his interesting article on the Parrots; but I was rather surprised that he should write of the Grey Parrot as South African. Mr. Cresswell's remarks about the Grey Parrot's "throaty voice" and inability to change its voice no doubt were based upon birds which had been improperly taught. Most owners of Parrots, as I have frequently noticed, consider it necessary to talk through their noses to their birds; perhaps the large curved upper mandible reminds them of Punch and therefore they assume that a Parrot ought to talk in the fashion of Punchinello.

Now, when I started to teach my young Grey to talk, I spoke to him in my natural voice, and I instructed other members of my household to do the same; the result was that my bird not only spoke far more distinctly than I ever heard an Amazon Parrot do, but it altered the tone in imitation of different members of the family, so as frequently to deceive them; it learned to know each of us by name, and never made a mistake in addressing us. Each morning when I approached its cage my Grey used to say, "Arthur, good morning!" "Are you all right?" When I assented he would say, "Quite right," and then he would turn his head, looking at me sideways, and say, "You're a rascal!" and when I reproved him for rudeness he answered, "Bobby's a rascal!" I called him Bobby because he was a cock bird,

and to give the name "Polly" to a male Parrot, as is frequently done, struck me as silly.

I don't know about association of ideas, but it is marvellous to note the appropriate character of many remarks made by Parrots; how and when picked up by the birds is a marvel.

THE CRY OF OWLS

By E. G. B. MEADE-WALDO

The voices of the various species of owls have no connexion whatever with taking of prey. All Owls hunt alone, and complete silence is the essence of their success. This is most admirably provided for by nature. When an Owl has caught something and is bringing it to the nest, it will utter the particular call that means it is coming with food, so that the female may come and take that food for distribution.

The various cries are connected principally with finding mates; communicating with their mate; calling the young; warning the young; rapture of breeding, the same as the song of any other bird, such as the Blackbird, Robin, Lapwing, Curlew, for the song has the same meaning in such widely different genera.

The Wood Owls—*Strix*=*Syrnium* (*auctorum*)—of which our Tawny Owl is an example, have, perhaps, as fine a vocabulary as any species. The clear, bell-like hoot of the male may be heard in all directions, but no two hoot exactly alike. Gilbert White draws attention to this in his letter of August 1, 1771. It is easy to learn to distinguish the voice of each Owl in one's particular neighbourhood, and the voice can be heard distinctly in favourable weather at the distance of over a mile. Both sexes hoot: the male is clear and generally deep-toned, the female mostly with effort and a much higher pitch, also far less frequently. Both sexes utter the short sharp cry rendered by your correspondent as "Tih-vac"—the female frequently, the male very rarely. This cry is the adult development of the nestling cry for food, rendered by the late Professor Newton by the word "Kee-wick". This cry, according to the way in which it is uttered, has many meanings. If low and anxiously in the breeding season it means that the young

must keep quiet. When the male gives a loud clear hoot by day in early spring whilst the female is sitting she will reply if in hearing, by this cry almost in the tone of a nestling. The hoot of the Tawny Owls gathers volume with distance; when uttered close it often does not sound at all loud.

The same applies to the soft deep "Boo" of the male Eagle Owl. In mountains and forests it can be heard for a long distance, but in one's aviary it seems quite insignificant. Both sexes of the Eagle Owls (*Bubo*) hoot, that of the male differing from the female in much the same manner as that of the Wood Owls; also both sexes utter an adult development of the nestling call for food.

All the Barn Owls—*Tyto* = *Strix* (*auctorum*), a genus spread over the whole world—have more or less the same voice, a whistling screech. This is uttered in many tones, and conveys many meanings: fear, anger, caution, etc. It is the development of the nestling cry, as can easily be proved by any one who has a brood of Barn Owls in their surroundings. No Barn Owl develops any form of hoot, but the males introduce a somewhat musical rattle into their screech when playing on the wing in early summer. However numerous Barn Owls may be, they hunt alone and in silence. This last winter they have hunted by daylight nearly every day, and it has been quite usual to see six or seven in a short walk. They occasionally, but very rarely, catch a mouse, which seems at present to be a very rare animal.

The Little Owls (*Athene*) and Scops Owls (*Scops*) have many cries, and both have a musical hoot difficult to describe. The old specific name *Giu* was evidently meant to represent the monotonous cry of the Scops; this cry is the breeding call.

Should not the portrait of the "Farmer's Friend" have been represented by our Barn Owl—not an exotic *Bubo*?

DR. JOHN KERR BUTTER

Dr. John Kerr Butter died at Cannock on April 29, 1920, after a short illness of ten days. He will be missed by thousands of that mining community, be regretted by the whole tribe of those who live in tents, be mourned by those who enjoyed a personal friendship with

that genial kindly soul to which the surest passport was a love of animals. Dr. Butter served with distinction in the South African War, where he was attached to Lord Roberts' Staff.

At Cannock, whither he removed from his native Forfar in 1887, he had a roomy old-fashioned house, a field, and a large practice, which enabled him to indulge in his favourite hobby. Even before he left Scotland he had made acquaintance with Mr. E. Bostock, with whom he spent almost all his annual holiday in the living wagon of the Show (varied by occasional trips of zoological inspection on the Continent), and with whom he was contemplating an early and more adventurous trip embracing Africa from Cairo to the Cape. Among the caravans his annual visits marked an epoch; his sympathy was always on the side of the wanderers in their continual struggles for their prescriptive rights so often challenged—he used to tell with great gusto the tale of two horses impounded by a local authority, and their woeful apologies to the circus-owner when they found that their law lore was shorter than his. “And it cost them a 2*d.* rate to get out of it,” he concluded with a smile.

He was humorous and kind-hearted; his great professional skill was free to every living thing in and about the menagerie—a sore finger or an operation on the big Elephant—a case of croup or tincture of iodine for the Ostrich's throat. In the last letter I received from him was a lament on the death of a young Elephant that had been sent too late to Cannock.

On his three-acre field he had a fine collection of birds and beasts, which was free to the neighbourhood except when some local hospital needed funds. At one time or another there were all things from Zebras to Squirrels. The dwarf Zebu would put its muzzle into one's hand—the Ostrich run up with outspread wings—and there was the sitting Rhea that it was well to avoid. In the aviaries were many kinds of Parrakeets, Macaws, and Cockatoos—Hérons, too, and Owls and the smaller Cranes. Civets, Jackals, and Llamas bred regularly at Cannock, and the Monkeys (chiefly Drills and Mandrills) were fine specimens. Dr. Butter kept the rare and delicate Fossa for years; he had an Ocelot as cage mate for the Chimpanzee; everything was done without regard to zoological convention, and none of the houses

were heated. Fancy raising a weak and puling Chimpanzee on the hills at Cannock, and seeing it develop into a perfect wonder! The event is unique, but the Doctor took it as a matter of course—this great naturalist did not know his greatness.

Dr. Butter was not married. Our hearts go out in sympathy to the sister who kept house for him and gave so cheery a welcome to his friends.

GEORGE JENNISON.

[A portrait of Dr. Butter appeared in our volume for 1918; papers by him on the Emu and Common Rhea were published in the *Avicultural Magazine* for July of last year; his final contribution immediately follows this notice. Well known as police surgeon and as an expert witness in medico-legal cases, he was also a lecturer and examiner for the St. John's Ambulance Society. The public respect for his memory was shown by the thousands who thronged the streets of Cannock on May 4, when the funeral was held in Cannock Parish Church previous to cremation at Glasgow.—G. R.]

AN EGG-BOUND PARROT

By the late JOHN K. BUTTER, M.D.

I have a Grey Parrot which has been in my possession for twenty-two years, and is always kept in the kitchen in a large roomy cage. I noticed three weeks ago that although she fed fairly well, she was listless, drooping, and unable to lift her leg up as usual to hold her food in her claws. I thought she must be suffering from rheumatism. As she did not seem to improve and preferred to sit in the bottom of the cage, instead of on the perch, I got her out and examined her carefully. I noticed every now and then, at intervals of three or four minutes, she was in pain and straining badly; her droppings were passed with a great deal of mucus and wind. A round swelling could be seen and felt through the skin of the abdomen; with the help of some vaseline I was able to make out the form of an egg and that she was egg-bound, so I vaselined the passage and the egg well with my finger. She was shivering a good deal, so I put her in front of the fire on the top rail of a kitchen chair, after giving her three drops of white

chlorodyne in warm water. She evidently got relief from this, as she slept at intervals between the pain of straining. I was writing at the time, and my attention was arrested by hearing something drop on the mat in front of the chair. It was an egg fully formed with shell complete, but unfortunately broken. She was much relieved after this, and went on well for three days, when I had to deal with a protrusion of the passage. I tried several ointments, but only got it right after applying a ten per cent solution of cocaine, which gave relief to the pain and enabled me to replace it. I then freely applied a solution of nitrate of silver, 40 grains to the ounce, all over the inside of the passage. She has had no trouble since, and is again becoming lively, eating, whistling, and talking as usual.

BITTERNS

By F. D. WELCH, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P.

One day when walking towards the tunnel in the Zoological Gardens I met Bertling (the then head-keeper) carrying three European Bitterns, which were a few minutes after turned loose in the large aviary near the Clock Tower. As there were various other birds kept there, such as Curassows and Ibises of various species, I waited to see if attacks were made on the new arrivals. It was soon clear that these Bitterns, although only about three-quarters grown, were more than a match for the various Curassows, these large, Turkey-like creatures retreating before the pecks of the new birds. On these and subsequent occasions when quarrelling with a bird of another genus, the Bittern has always pecked at once, as soon as it was threatened.

Soon after an adult American Bittern and an adult European Bittern were put into one of the enclosures which used to stand where the Sea Lion pond is now, both birds living together on friendly terms. On one occasion they approached each other when walking round opposite sides of a small shrub which was growing near the centre of the enclosure, and almost collided. Remembering how Bitterns had attacked other birds with vigorous pecks from their sharp beaks, I expected to see these two at once begin fighting, as both were in good health and condition. But to my great surprise both Bitterns

immediately withdrew some inches and remained perfectly still on the defensive, facing each other with wings partly open. Their feathers were erect, heads drawn back, and beaks in readiness for a sudden thrust ; each bird kept its eyes firmly fixed on the other ready for battle. As they faced one another they looked far grander and more attractive than they had done a few seconds before when approaching each other round the bush. Neither bird was anxious to fight ; each appeared to realize that it would prove to be a tough battle, judging by the very extreme watchfulness displayed and the complete indifference that both birds showed to me and a keeper, although we had both entered the enclosure and stood only about 5 feet away. It is interesting to add that the keeper, although he was not aware of my thoughts, expressed the same opinion.

After watching them face each other for about two minutes, during which both remained perfectly still, we decided to time them, and although I repeatedly waved my umbrella between their beaks, and even pushed each bird along the ground for over 2 feet (keeping them parallel in the journey), they flatly refused to take their eyes off each other, and remained for just over seven minutes in position, after which they decided to postpone hostilities.

The incident suggested that when two Bitterns in the wild state disagree they proceed with far greater caution than when opposed by another bird of different genus—each apparently realizing that its opponent has a sharp beak which it can use with effect. I have, however, never witnessed a combat between wild Bitterns. Perhaps some other reader has had this experience.

THE AUSTRALIAN BIRD MARKET

By H. E. ROGERS

The Australian bird market has not yet got into its regular stride ; business is full of surprises, and one never knows what to expect in the way of arrivals. I expect some stock from Australian ports this week, but I have no definite news and do not like to build up hopes in vain. The scarcity of birds, mammals, and reptiles in captivity in Australia was never so great, but poor Bunny has come into his own, and I have

it on very reliable authority that the men who formerly trapped wild birds are now making quite a fortune out of his pelt, and have not time for livestock.

To-day some Australian birds came in—Diamond Sparrows, Zebra Finches, Roseate Cockatoos—I know also that some King Parrots have been shipped, and a pair of Kagus from New Caledonia, so that there may be quite a large and good collection on the way. I expect the Kagus to-morrow, and a few selected rare birds from private aviaries, but Australian dealers have no stock, and the Zoos there are very, very short of birds.

PARROTS

By the late O. E. CRESSWELL

(Communicated by Miss Frances Cresswell.)

(Continued from p. 90.)

The Conures are a hardy race. The most beautiful Conure, if not the most beautiful of all the Psittacidæ, is the *Conurus luteus*, or Queen of Bavaria's Parrakeet. It is extremely rare, and I had never seen a living specimen till last October, when I was enchanted with the sight of one in the Jardin d'Acclimatation of Paris. Alas! poor thing, confined in a small cage utterly unworthy of so glorious a creature! All pictures and all stuffed specimens had led me to expect the prevailing hue of the bird to be primrose colour. In reality it is the richest amber. The green, too, of the wings is the vivid green of tropical vegetation. There are other brilliant Conures—neither rare nor dear in this country—the gaudy Jendaya, its hues orange, green, and blue with flashes of scarlet; the Sun Parrakeet of bright orange and green; and a host of smaller species, generally seen in pairs. I have a little pair—Cactus Conures, I believe is their proper name—which I have possessed towards four years. I cannot say that their intelligence is of a high order; still, they show signs of wild delight whenever I return home after an absence of some time.

I must not leave America without saying a word about one other Parrakeet, so peculiar that it does not seem to fit into any genus. In Latin it is the *Bolborhynchus monachus*, in English variously called the

Quaker, Grey-breasted, and Monte Video Parrakeet, which alone of all the Psittacidæ builds itself a nest in a tree, and that a very elaborate one. It is a gentle and tamable bird and often to be bought at a low price.

I pass to Australia, and here I must beware of wearying you, for Australia abounds with many genera of the Psittacidæ. Some of them are peculiar favourites of my own, and I think quite among the loveliest of the tribe. First come several of the handsomest Cockatoo race, others of which we have already found in the East Indian Islands. The latter are nearly pure white; the Australian are beautifully tinted with various shades, and are in some cases entirely coloured.

(*To be continued.*)

AVICULTURAL NOTES

AVICULTURAL RECONSTRUCTION.—I have been living here for about a fortnight, and though the park is by no means ready it is fenced all round, and the first arrivals are enjoying semi-liberty. Besides some mammals there are White-necked and Stanley Cranes, Emus, Rheas, a pair of Trumpeter Swans, Ross's, Pale-headed, Magellanic, Canada, Bernicle, Bar-headed and Cereopsis Geese, two dozen Falcated and Chilian Pintail Ducks, Specifer Peafowl, Crossoptilons, and Siamese Firebacks. It is a small beginning, but I enjoy these few birds very much.

I expect the aviaries (outdoor and indoor) and the enclosures will be ready for June or July. Mme. Lécallier is kindly keeping a lot of rare and interesting birds for me until my installations are set up. She has now a wonderful collection, especially of Parrakeets and Parrots.
—J. DELACOUR.

BARN OWL HUNTING IN DAYLIGHT.—An individual of this species seems to have taken to hunting regularly by day in the country round, as I saw it in daylight and *also in sunshine* during February and March. This day habit of hunting is most likely due to decrease in the supply of Mice, etc. (also referred to by Mr. Trevor Battye in the *Field*, p. 201), making it necessary for individual Owls to hunt longer hours in order to obtain sufficient. A few summers ago another Owl used to hunt

occasionally by day, but not so often as the individual mentioned above.—FREDERICK D. WELCH, M.R.C.S.

REVIEW

A GEOGRAPHICAL BIBLIOGRAPHY OF BRITISH ORNITHOLOGY. By W. H. MULLENS, H. K. SWANN, and F. C. R. JOURDAIN. Part III. Witherby & Co.

Part iii of the *Geographical Bibliography of British Ornithology* includes the counties from Middlesex to Surrey, embracing such important ornithological areas as Norfolk, Northampton, Northumberland, and Oxford. A glance through these shows that it is not the geographical position alone that makes the county of interest, but rather the prominence into which it is brought by its conscientious workers. We feel that it is the man who makes the county, and not the county the man, or, in other words, that any area will produce something worthy of observation if we will trouble to observe. We could wish, however, that it had been possible to dig out from obscurity the valuable notes of observations buried in little-known publications; the references in this work show that a certain number of well-known journals have been examined, but others have been neglected. The editors should have had more help from local workers.

T. A. COWARD.

HEN ROBINS

DEAR DR. RENSHAW,—I have lately been told that the hen Robin has a red breast—I thought she was all brown—and it is against the general rule that hen birds are modestly dressed and the cocks wear the gaudy colours. Still, no one whom I have asked seems sure of seeing a full-grown Robin without a red breast.—Yours sincerely,

FRANCES CRESSWELL.

DEAR DR. RENSHAW,—Both sexes of the Robin have sienna-reddish breasts; the colour is not red at all, and therefore the legend about the Robin getting its breast colour through trying to pull the nails out of the Cross is the more ridiculous.

A hen Robin is a more stocky bird than her mate, and consequently has a less alert appearance; her bill is noticeably shorter and her crown broader; the sienna-reddish all round the base of the bill, both on forehead and chin, is dull and smoky, and the middle of the throat is duller and more sandy-coloured than in the male. When one once knows what to look for one can tell the sex of a Robin yards away at a glance.

A. G. BUTLER.

OBITUARY

We desire to state that the Duchess of Bedford whose death was reported in our May issue was not the Duchess who is our Vice-President. The error, which we hasten to correct, was unfortunately noted too late for press. We learn that very many others made the same mistake, so that we erred in company.

DR. LOVELL-KEYS

It is with deep regret that we record the death, on May 14, of our esteemed colleague, Dr. Lovell-Keys. His serious illness, already noted in the Magazine, manifested itself just as he had once more consented to become Treasurer as well as Secretary of the Society, and few of those who saw him at the Council Meeting in January would have supposed that we should so soon have to mourn his loss.

Dr. Keys was a fine naturalist, with a special enthusiasm, amounting to a veritable gift, for aviculture. He enriched the Magazine before the War with many valuable papers, and his writings under the name of "Secretarius" are masterpieces of applied knowledge. He was a Waterton of ornithology, an able and reliable interpreter of the book of Nature who did not hesitate to share his great knowledge with others, but freely shared his experiences with all. Now that aviculture has revived and the Magazine is definitely set once more on its former course, his counsel and assistance will be sadly missed.

G. R.



Generosity of S. C. LAW.

A WHITE BULBUL.

Frontispiece.

THE AVICULTURAL MAGAZINE

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JULY, 1920.

AN ALBINO BULBUL

By S. C. LAW, M.A., B.L.

(Kindly communicated by Dr. CHALMERS MITCHELL)

Partial or wholesale albinism is often met with among the Thrushes and Starlings, but it is rare among the Bulbuls. About a month ago a live specimen of the latter class was brought to me for sale by a bird-catcher, who told me that he had caught it very young in its nest within a village in the district of Patna. It was found in the nest along with another youngster, which retained the usual black colour of its parents. I asked my painter, Mr. J. C. Banerjee, to draw a coloured likeness of the bird, a copy of which is appended hereto. From this it is clear that the plumage has become perfectly white, but in between the feathers about the ears a rosy tint belonging to the flesh has added to its beauty by mixing with the whiteness of the feathers. The yellowish-rosy bill, red eyes and nostrils, and dull reddish legs and feet are perceptible as the concomitants of albinism, while the usual red vent, characteristic song, and general demeanour show it at the very first sight to be none other than our daily companion of the field and garden—a variation of the Black Indian Bulbul.

In the opinion of the bird-catcher, the specimen is different from the Bengal Bulbul (*Molpastes bengalensis*), and is the offspring of the

species abounding outside Bengal. According to his statement, therefore, it should be *Molpastes hæmorrhous* (otherwise known as the Madras Bulbul), which is distinguished from the Bengal Bulbul by the absence of the conspicuous brown ear-coverts, and by the black of the occiput and nape, which ends abruptly instead of passing down to the uppermost portion of the back. Interbreeding, however, between two closely allied forms, and more specially between *Molpastes hæmorrhous* and *Molpastes bengalensis*, is so common that no conjecture as to the ancestry of the albino specimen (i.e. whether it is descended from a pure form, viz. Madras or Bengal parents only, or the product of interbreeding between two closely allied species) can be hazarded. In the specimen before us there is, however, no peculiar ear-covert to indicate its Bengal origin, though, as I have already pointed out, a rosy tint of the flesh is visible through the white feathers about the ears and lores.

A PET COCKATOO

By E. MAUD NOBEL

In the middle of April last I was lucky enough to obtain from Gamage the most charming pet in the way of a bird I think I have ever possessed. I have kept birds all my life, and have had all sorts. At the early age of two years old I was given a pair of Doves, and from them have ranged from Canaries to Finches (British and foreign) on to insectivorous birds, also British and foreign—the first being Black-birds and Thrushes, and later on Shamahs and Tanagers, these, again, being replaced by Parrakeets and Parrots, and since 1910 I have practically kept only Parrots. My birds are my friends and companions, and I have never kept them as anything else. To get a bird to place absolute confidence in me and never to have the slightest fear has always been my great object. I have had many charming and delightful pets, but none, I think, to equal the subject of this paper.

“Jackie” is a small Cockatoo, similar to the Lesser Lemon Crested (*Cacatua sulphurea*), but considerably smaller than the usual specimens. The B.M. catalogue puts the total length as 13 inches; this bird measures about 10 inches, yet I think he is quite adult and he certainly

has not grown at all since I have had him. He is white, with the usual lemon crest, and if you turn back the feathers of the head and neck the down feathers underneath are a bright canary yellow. The under wings and tail are pale lemon colour. The bright yellow patch on the ear-coverts, so conspicuous in most of the Lesser Sulphur Crests, is wanting, and there is only a suspicion of very pale lemon colour to mark the spot. He has black eyes, and is certainly a male bird.

I was told he had come from the Solomon Islands, and had only been a few days in this country when I bought him. He certainly must have lived in the engine-room on the boat coming over, or been petted by men with oily hands, for he was almost black and covered in oil. I have washed him twice in "Lux", and also rubbed him with flour and oatmeal, but without much success; the quills are white, but it seems almost impossible to get the oil out of the soft, downy feathers, and I suppose I must possess my soul in patience and wait for him to moult out into that snow-like whiteness that one wants to see. He is far and away the most amusing and intelligent bird I have ever had. He is a perfect clown in the way he plays about and talks and dances the whole day through. He enters a room as if the whole place belonged to him, and then pauses to see who he shall go to; having made up his mind he then runs straight to that person and pulls himself up to be nursed. He generally chooses my mother, to whom he is devoted. He has learnt several words since I have had him, like "Jackie", "Pretty Cockatoo", "What you want?" "Hulloa!" etc. He and I have recently been at a farm in Gloucestershire, when he learnt to cackle to perfection like a hen after laying an egg. He is never tired of sitting on a chair in front of a looking-glass, when he kisses and talks to himself in the most endearing terms. He sometimes does a kind of skirt dance in the corner of the room—slowly dancing round with wings outspread, and now and again tapping the floor with his beak, and then putting the wings forward so as to completely cover the head. I have never kept a Cockatoo before, so all this is entirely new to me, but I should like to know if they all go on like this! He plays just like a kitten with a screwed up piece of paper, tossing it over his head with his beak and pulling it back with his foot. He can run at a tremendous pace, and follows me about like a dog, jumping down the stairs and then

pulling himself up again by the edge of the carpet (not very improving to the carpet).

A few days after I had him we had friends to tea, and Jackie came to the drawing-room to be introduced, and was duly nursed and admired by all. When the time came for their departure I put Jackie on his stand and left him alone in the room as we all went to the hall to see them off. When I returned there was no Jackie. I called and hunted for him, and then found that he had solemnly walked upstairs to find me in my bedroom. I had only had him a week and he had not been to the hall since he arrived, but had lived in my room and the drawing-room, so I suppose he naturally went there as the only other room he knew. He is absolutely tame, and loves to be nursed and petted and played with. When he wants to show great affection to me he not only kisses me but takes my fingers and combs them down with his beak in the most extraordinary way. I think his attraction is greatly enhanced by his small size—he is unlike any Cockatoo I have ever seen, and I can find no description of him in any book and should very much like to know if he is a distinct species or simply a freak.

NOTES FROM THE ZOOLOGICAL GARDENS

By FREDERICK D. WELCH, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P.

In former years a pair of the large grey-coloured Crested Screamers (*Chauna*) lived in the Zoo, and later on bred in the large aviary near the Clock Tower. The nest was on the ground, being a flattened structure of hay and straw, supplied with some leaves by the keeper, and was about 3 or 4 feet in diameter. Two eggs were laid, which resembled in colour those of a normal British Pheasant. Both sexes shared in incubation, and usually changed about midday, both then uttering their loud trumpet-like scream. As on several occasions I saw the Screamer, which was walking about at the time, begin to scream for no obvious reason, and the other bird reply with a scream while still on the nest, I cannot possibly agree with the remarks in the *Royal Natural History*, vol. xiv, p. 362, where their powerful voice is referred



Photo by Commander S. F. Rotch.

A RECENT ARRIVAL AT THE ZOO :
THE AMERICAN JABIRU (*MYCTERIA AMERICANA*).

to as "a scream of alarm", line 8. Moreover, after the young were hatched and had left the nest I went close to a chick to inspect it, and both parents came at me with outstretched wings and showing their spurs, but there was no sound uttered by either as they would have done had the scream been one of "alarm", for it was clear that both parents regarded their young one as in danger. At other times, when not nesting, the pair used to scream at intervals, this being obviously nothing more than an outburst of pleasure; so that it does not seem that the cry of the species, as a whole, can properly be called one of "alarm".

But to return to the chicks: they appeared downy within twenty-four hours of hatching, with red legs like their parents, certainly when eight days old (if not earlier), and as they grew gradually feathered into slate-grey with a black ring round the neck.

An interesting attempt to hatch out a chick was made by two Black Vultures (*Catharista atrata*), which were the last survivors of a large family—about thirty, from what I saw of them—which reached the Zoo at the time when Bertling was head-keeper.

As attempts which "just fail" are not always recorded, it may be mentioned that these two were finally put into one of the cages between the path over the tunnel and the Small Mammal (Cats, etc.) House, and the female deposited an egg on the ground in a further corner, there being (so far as could be seen) only a depression scratched in the earthen floor for the egg. On this she sat regularly (so far as I could discover, the male took no part in incubating), and looked as if she would hatch off. Unfortunately the roofing over the nest had been damaged and only temporarily repaired with network, which did not matter so long as the weather remained fine; but just before what seemed to be the full period the weather turned terribly wet, and drenching rain came through the opening in the roof on to the Vulture, which stayed on its nest for more than two days, drenched through, after which it deserted, apparently unable to tolerate the heavy rains. This change of weather was unfortunate, because the egg, which was white, had the chick full-grown inside it, and would apparently have hatched off in another twenty-four hours. This I saw myself, as it was broken open after an attempt had been made in the incubating-room to hatch it.

The chilling effect of the rain on the shell had, however, proved fatal to the chick.

MISCELLANIES

By HUBERT D. ASTLEY, M.A.

It is a long time since I have handled a pen in order to write on my birds or anybody else's, and even now I can but wander somewhat promiscuously amongst them as the spirit moves me. Monsieur Delacour has more than anyone kept the fire of aviculture burning within me, he whose enthusiasm is ever undimmed, ever active. I was with him in Paris not long ago. Whither did we wend our way? To Nôtre Dame, to Versailles, the Louvre, and all the other wonders of the great capital? No! To the chauffeur we said, "Quai de la Mégisserie," to Travella, where good birds can be found. I was on my way to Italy, and wanted to take something that would sing. Owing to the War—and what is not?—there were few birds that were extraordinary, but I took away a lovely mule, Hooded Siskin×Canary, and another, Linnet×Canary. And then when I was in Milan, having to buy bird-seed, I resorted to the only bird shop I could find, ordered the seed (at a preposterous price!) and saw that the birds in the shop were quite plebeian. When the proprietor said, "Would the signore like a Cardellino-Canarino mule?" i.e. Hooded Siskin, I answered that I had one. Where did the signore buy it? "From Travella in Paris." Tapping his chest, he said, "That came from ME." I had brought the bird back to its original dwelling! and I took the other, which was carefully kept upstairs away from the common herd.

These Hooded Siskin mules are charming songsters and extremely handsome, looking like a pure species, or not unlike a refined green Canary, colour fed, and very successfully coloured too, so that the orange has flowed throughout, the whole underparts being especially rich and brilliant. I was offered a female, but as she couldn't sing, and I presume would not propagate her race, I declined with thanks.

As a rule cross breeds do not appeal to me, but these particular ones are an exception.

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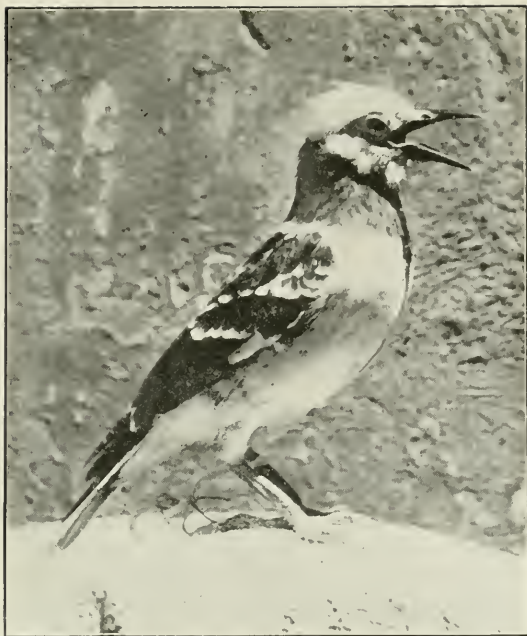


Photo by M. l'Hermitte.

Courtesy of M. Decoux.

THE VOICE OF THE JUNGLE (*Acridotheres cinereus*)



Photo by Mrs. Staveley Hill.

THE VOICE OF THE SEA

[To face p. 116.]

I regretted that no opportunity was given me when at the Lake of Como to see a very interesting sight. I happened to visit the iron-smith at Varenna this spring, where I saw a beautiful blue Rock Thrush in a cage, to which I was at once attracted, when the "fabbro" said, "That is the same bird, signore, that you used to know." I had not seen it for seven years, and it is now nearly thirteen, showing no signs of old age. Its owner then told me that across the lake, near Menaggio, there is a man who has two true pairs of this species, and that every spring one of the females makes a nest in the cage, where a food-vessel should be, lays her eggs, and last year hatched them, but that owing to lack of time for procuring insect food on the part of their owner the young did not survive. This is interesting. The cage is only a roomy one of open wooden bars.

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On my return home in the beginning of June I found four Monaul chicks and one Satyr Tragopan—the little Tragopan most delightfully tame, having as a mother a black Silky, and two Partridge Pekin Bantams as foster-brothers. When I held a bowl with food the Tragopan, running at liberty on a lawn, fearlessly stepped into it to pick out the choicest morsels, and was more tame than the Bantams. Its colour in the natal down : head rich rufous, upper parts dark rufous, underparts yellowish-buff. I had left in April, when the male Tragopan was daily displaying, an astonishing sight. One moment one sees a beautiful Pheasant of rich Venetian red thickly spotted with white, the next, if he is facing you, something out of a pantomime, some heavenly demon, if such a being could be. Astonishing ! Emerald-green horns erected, gular wattle covering the bird's front, a wattle of vivid brilliant turquoise and emerald-green, patched with rose, leaving one holding one's breath ! In some ornithological publications, whose authors should have known better, male Tragopans represented in coloured plates show the fleshy horns on the head ; which except during the moment of display one scarcely ever sees, and then but the mere tips ; and also the gular wattle lowered.

It is evident that merely skins of birds have been used by the artist, for after death the horns and wattle collapse and hang down.

Furthermore, the colours of both have faded, and have been reproduced in this state, giving no idea of the brilliance in the living bird.

And then the whole of this wondrous colouring disappears, and once more there is a red spotted Pheasant walking quietly about. One rubs one's eyes; one wonders "Have I got them?" The transformation is so complete, so entirely unexpected, before you are aware of the ways of the creature. I deem it to be one of the most striking and wonderful displays in all bird life. With the Peacock the feathers are there, patent to the eye, and so, too, with the Paradise Birds and so on; they only have to shake them out or up or sideways, but with the Tragopans all that beauty is completely hidden. One wonders how that gorgeously enamelled wattle is tucked away at the throat. And what a pity that the display lasts no more than about a fortnight; two weeks out of fifty-two! For fifty weeks the beauty lies hidden, and when it is forthcoming you may see it but three or four times for but a minute at a time, unless you can watch all day. And at other moments during the courting season—that short, short period—the male Satyr Tragopan constantly gives vent to his loud weird cry, a cry resembling in part the miauling of a cat, in part something in distress. "Wa-a-u—Wa-a-a-u—" drawn out and repeated some six or seven times, the bird's mouth being opened more widely each time and to the fullest extent, as if the effort was great. It slightly reminds me of a Badger's cry. It is very weird.

My pair of Stanley Cranes is a decided addition to the garden, especially when the male, full-winged, flies round. If he lands on the other side of the moat his mate sets off running for all she is worth, sometimes along the path under the pergola which divides the moat from the ponds above, sometimes past the windows of the house, over the stone bridge, and along the paved terrace to the orchard. And then what happy greetings and pirouetting and dancing, as she rejoins her mate!

My Cranes have dismally failed to hatch their eggs—that is, White-necked Australian and Mantchurian. Each pair has a large meadow to itself and each pair has had eggs, which have been incubated for *weeks*, and at the end, nothing! The Australians

constructed a bulky nest of sticks and reeds in a shallow pond, because (so I think) their two eggs have on other occasions always been taken by some animal [? a stoat] when they were deposited in the open field. Why the eggs this year have failed to hatch or to be fertile I do not understand, for the Australians most certainly mated.

The Mantchurians laid for the first time this year, although I have had them for about ten. No Cranes could be kept under more favourable circumstances. The White-necked, certainly a true and devoted couple, have had eggs, and twice each season for the last four years, yet the eggs are always clear. They sit sedulously. It is puzzling. The birds are in magnificent condition, and have a spacious range of ground with water.

"GEORGIE," A MASKED PARRAKEET

By the MARQUESS OF TAVISTOCK

Pyrrhulopsis personata is a rare bird in these days ; there are ugly rumours that he is verging on extinction in his native country, thanks to some fool who added Mongooses to the local fauna. Anyhow, I have seen but one—the subject of this article—though I believe a few others have passed through the hands of Australian dealers within the last six or seven years. The Masked Parrakeet is a big bird, bearing some superficial resemblance to a "King", but larger and with a much heavier beak. The greater part of the plumage is rich green, tinged with blue in the flights and tail ; the centre of the breast is yellow, becoming orange on the abdomen ; the bill, forehead, and part of the face are black ; the eye is fiery orange. "Georgie" has been in my possession about 18 months. He appears to be very old, and I daresay his former master kept him for many years. Though always in fair condition, he has never been really robust, and has had to be nursed through more than one minor illness. His disposition is most peculiar, and he appears to be endowed with a dual personality. For long periods he will be dull, quiet, and sluggish, hardly moving from his perch, uttering no sound and shrinking away if touched. Then suddenly he completely changes and becomes active, sociable, full of conversation, and equally full of the

desire to bite somebody. He repeats several words and sentences, barks, and utters a most disagreeable screech which may be the natural call, but I am inclined to think has been learned from a Parrot or Macaw. This summer I decided to give Georgie his liberty, hoping to rejuvenate him and increase his stamina. So far the experiment has been a success; he has conducted himself sensibly, and seems to be improving in health. He flies heavily and only for short distances; he is timid with other birds, and allows smaller Parrakeets to bully him. When walking he moves in an alert but rather furtive manner, recalling a Pheasant, and there is none of the ordinary Parrot waddle in his gait. His food consists of the usual seed mixture with soft fruit and peanuts, of both of which he is very fond. My other *Pyrrhulopsis* is a "Red Shining"—a lovely bird and very active; he is vicious with human beings, but as far as I have been able to judge more amiable with other Parrakeets. I hope to mate him with a Sula Island *Aprosmictus* and breed some lovely and unique hybrids.

A WEST COUNTRY COLLECTION

By ALLEN SILVER

Quite one of the nicest indoor collections I have seen is that belonging to our member, Mrs. Burgess, of Helston House, Clifton. At the invitation of this lady I recently made a special visit, and was struck by the excellent appointments of her bird room. This room has a central range of twelve aviaries, each measuring about 12 by 8 by 6 feet, made with wood framework zined and kept separate with frosted glass. The entire bird-room floor was covered with a galvanized sheet to prevent mice, and additional flight and Parrot cages were arranged round the walls, leaving a walking space round the room for visitors. The whole, with feeding-stuff annexe, gives the owner scope for keeping all sorts of things, whether it be a collection of small birds, breeding pairs of larger birds, or collections of middle-sized species, augmented by Parrots in cages. Mrs. Burgess possesses quite one of the largest and healthiest collections of Blue Budgerigars I have seen, and a large batch of Olive Budgerigars and Bluebred Greens. Among other Parrot-like birds

I noticed a Cuban Amazon, an excellent Grey, the rare Lesson's Amazon, a very tame Rosy Cockatoo, and an interesting mottled Yellow-fronted Amazon. Apart from being very tame and a talker, this bird's body plumage was regularly mottled with alternate green and yellow feathers.¹ There were also Red-collared and Swainson's Lorikeets, Peach and Red-faced Lovebirds, Meyer's, Senegal, and Muller's Parrots, Yellow-headed Eops, Jendaya Conures (a remarkably tame and beautiful pair), Pennant, Stanley, and Rosella Broadtails, Cockatiels, and White-winged Parrakeets, Blue Grosbeaks, with a dozen or so Cardinals, making an excellent show: six or eight Virginian cocks give some colour with Popes and Redcrests. A nice singing Dyal and a Mocking-bird contributed music to the collection. The lazy denizens of the aviary were a pair of Cuban Trogons, and red as a colour was again noticeable in the shape of a batch of Scarlet Tanagers. Besides these there were noticeable such birds as Yellow-fronted Fruitsuckers, Javan Hill Mynahs, and a pair of Bifasciated Sunbirds (=the nectar-feeders). These have been lately augmented by Yellow-winged Sugar-birds. The small seed-eaters were pretty numerous, and such birds as Grey and Green Singing and Alario Finches, Cordons, Orange-cheeks, Fire and Lavender Finches, Grey and Dufresnes Waxbills, Gouldians, Masked, Longtailed, Grass, Wydahs, Combasous, Diamond, Black Seed, and Cuban Finches were well to the fore.

Mrs. Burgess feeds her birds in the orthodox fashion, and for a large collection her death-rate has been so far low; on the whole her birds thrive remarkably well, because she does not buy rough or cheap birds, but pays reasonable prices for selected material. Among the several Senegal Parrots in her collection I noticed a very fine bird with tomato-red lower underparts. I have seen several such Senegals (not colour-fed), but have not possessed one, although I have had a number of these Parrots. I have not had occasion to look up a collection of Senegal Parrot skins for comparison, but it has just occurred to me whether these red-breasted birds are the males, as the mating of Senegals with yellow underparts has in the instances I have in mind always proved abortive. Perhaps

¹ [Probably a "contrafeito", a bird artificially coloured yellow by rubbing into the skin the blood of the South American frog *Dendrobates tinctorius*.—G. R.]

some member who knows the bird *in life in its native state* can settle this point. Mrs. Burgess has recently included a Queen Alexandra Parrakeet and a King Parrakeet in the collection, and I understand is negotiating for a Lesser Bird of Paradise. Her main object in keeping birds is not so much their breeding as to have the opportunity of enjoying their glorious colour and attractiveness of outline and demeanour.

THE CUBAN CONURE (*CONURUS EUOPS*)

By SYDNEY PORTER

Although I have searched through quite a lot of ornithological literature I find very little, if anything, about the subject of my notes, namely, the Cuban Conure (*Conurus euops*). These birds have never been very common in the English bird market, judging from the sparse references made to them. In the *Avicultural Magazine* they are only mentioned once, and that was by Lord Rothschild, who was comparing them with some newly discovered Conure. I can find practically nothing about their wild life, and if any reader could give me any information on the subject I should be greatly indebted to him.

These Conures have not been in my possession very long, but quite long enough for me to be charmed by their engaging ways and unique colouring, which, by the way, is the usual Conure green, with scarlet feathers scattered indiscriminately all over the body except the wings and tail, the red feathers being denser on the head. In one of the Conures the head is quite red, which goes to show that the red colour varies individually. The chief beauty lies in the under-wing feathers, which are rich scarlet and can only be seen when the birds are in flight, and then they look much redder than when at rest.

It seems rather a strange thing that such bright colouring should be hidden under the wing, but one finds examples of this in several of the Psittacidæ. Perhaps this colouring is used in the display of the bird, but Parrots, I think, don't usually indulge in displays; they do their courting as we humans do, by kissing and fussing round.

Is *Conurus euops* in a transitional state of evolution, either assuming certain areas of red plumage or losing them? It seems so strange that

birds should have such a bright colour scattered in such patchwork fashion over the body without having it in certain restricted areas. Perhaps they are assuming a green plumage for better protection.

The Conures when first they came were very wild and in very poor plumage, now they are in very much better feather and much tamer, but it will need a moult to do them justice. In size these birds are somewhat larger than the Brown-throated Conure, perhaps a little sturdier in build. The only difference I notice as regards the sex is that one of them seems to have a much larger beak and flatter head than the other. I thought that this was the hen, but a Grey-breasted Parrakeet in the same aviary, which I feel sure is a hen, became very friendly with this Conure, feeding it and preening its feathers, and it would have killed the supposed cock Conure had I not been there in time to save its life. These birds seem only to feed on apple and sunflower-seed, all other fruit they refuse or eat very little of; they soon get through a good-sized apple, but only eating about half and wasting the other part.

They are very noisy birds, not that they screech, but chatter loudly all day long, though the noise is not very unpleasant—not one that neighbours would complain about. I regret to say that these Parrakeets are very destructive to woodwork, which I am afraid is the family failing of nearly all the *Psittacidæ*, for although I supply them with heaps of bark and partly decayed wood, they seem to prefer to try and demolish the aviary. It is a strange thing to see these birds, quarrelling violently and fighting with beak and claw, suddenly stop and commence to preen each other's feathers and feed each other.

As is too often the case with Parrakeets brought from American regions, these birds had their flight feathers cut and so were unable to fly, and being very lively birds, always on the move, they sometimes overbalanced when running along a branch, and came with a thud to the floor. I was very much afraid that they would do themselves some internal injury, so I went into the country, fetched a car-load of dry bracken from out of the woods by the roadside, and spread this on the floor to help to break their fall. When they fell down they stayed as if dazed for a minute or two, and then ran up the wires and were as lively as ever in a very short time.

The Conures have taken over the entire management of the concern and keep all the other birds at a distance ; a Yucatan Jay seems to be a special aversion of theirs and gets driven from pillar to post all day, although he is twice their size. I am hoping that they will breed, as I do not think that they have been bred in England before.

Just one final word as regards the feeding of Parrots. I attribute any success that I have had with them to the fact that they get a plentiful supply of fruit every day all the year round. One cannot expect Parrots, whose natural food is ripe fruit, corn, and grass in the ear, to thrive on dry seeds, which are too often covered with dust. I also give a plentiful supply of bark, which I gather in the country every week off dead trees ; willow-tree bark is the best, and it is the easiest to pull off the trees. I have brought several ailing Parrots into perfect condition by giving them a liberal supply of bark to bite up ; it gives the birds something to do instead of moping in their cages all day long. It is bad enough for them to be imprisoned at all, but it is much worse for them to have nothing to do. The greatest thing in keeping birds is not to try and see what is the lowest temperature at which a bird can be kept alive, or what is the plainest food upon which it can exist, but to keep the captive while it is under our care as near as possible to its natural state, both as regards temperature and food, and to make its life as happy as possible under the circumstances.

SOME NEW GUINEA RARITIES

By the MARQUESS OF TAVISTOCK

I only kept the Parrots and Parrot Finches out of the New Guinea collection (the Cassowaries are at the Zoo), and I regret to say that a long series of obituary notices would be the leading feature in an account of my acquisitions. The few surviving rarities are all single birds, and up to the present I have not been able to move them to my own house where I can study their habits.

At present I have thirteen Tricoloured Parrot Finches, which I am about to put into aviaries for breeding ; one female Sula Island



Photo by W. Shore Bailly.

Generosity of W. Shore Bailly.

ORCHARD FINCH
(*Phrygilus fruticeti*)

Aprosmictus Parrakeet, which I shall try to pair with a Red-shining; one male Racquet-tailed Parrot, the Pesquet, one Black Lory, one White-Rumped Lory; three Lories (sp. incert.) allied to the Black-Capped; three Blue-Crowned Hanging Parrakeets, and one Ceylon ditto; one male Layard's Parrakeet, and a fine male Great-Billed Parrakeet, now at liberty at Warblington with a female previously imported. The Lories and Hanging Parrakeets, though kept very warm and carefully fed, died like flies on arrival from chills, inflammatory and digestive troubles; and the hen Racquet-tail succumbed the other day when nearly through the moult. The Layard did his best to follow the others to a better land, but was pulled round by the care and skill of the aviary attendant. Later in the summer I may have some more news to give.

THE NESTING OF THE ORCHARD FINCH (*PHRYGILUS FRUTICETI*)

By W. SHORE BAILY

This interesting Finch, which is nearly the size of our Redwing, was first bred by Dr. M. Amsler in 1915, an account of which appeared in *Bird Notes* the same year. Dr. Amsler after his first success allowed the birds freedom once they had gone to nest, thus securing for the nestlings a larger supply of insects than the parents would have been able to procure within the limits of the aviary walls. Some fine youngsters were reared in this way, a pair of which I secured. These wintered out of doors very well, but to my disappointment they did not go to nest in the spring, and I am inclined to think that they were two hens. However, one died, and I sold the survivor, so I was unable to prove this. Last autumn Dr. Amsler offered me his original pair and I was very glad to have them. About the middle of April this year the hen built a neat nest of roots and twigs and lined it with hair; two large eggs, pale bluish-green and thickly marked with brown, were laid. These I took for my collection. The hen went to nest again at the beginning of May, this time in a black spruce. Incubation commenced on May 4, the number of eggs again being two. On March 17 both had hatched, making the incubation period thirteen days. All

went well for a week, when on the very day I started for a short Whitsun holiday the cock escaped from the aviary, and my man was unable to capture him. In spite of this disaster the hen kept on feeding the young, and on my return I found that one youngster had left the nest on May 27. Up till this time no soft food or mealworms had been provided, but now that the cock had gone and all the work of feeding was left to the hen I started handing out mealworms, and very soon the hen would come at call and take them from my hand. The second young bird left the nest on the last day of the month; it was then quite well feathered. For a week things went excellently, when one morning I found one of the young dead, the skull having been fractured, possibly from an attack by another bird. The survivor thrived, and is now as big as its mother and quite independent. I hope that it may turn out to be a cock. Writing of their species as found in Patagonia, Mr. W. H. Hudson says:—

“This is a pretty and elegant bird, though possessing no bright colours. They go in pairs in the warm season, but in winter unite in flocks, often of two or three hundred individuals, and have a graceful undulating flight. On being approached they utter a series of low, ticking notes, and occasionally a long squealing cry. The male has also a very agreeable song, which continues at all hours, but on cold or windy days only at sunset. The bird usually soars from his perch and utters his song when gliding down with wings depressed and tail outspread. When I first heard it I was startled with its wonderful resemblance to the song of the Correndera Pipit (*Anthus corendera*); it is, however, shorter and more powerful.”

Mr. H. Durnford, also writing of this bird (Proceedings of the Zoological Society), says: “It is common at Chupat throughout the spring and summer, and was often seen during our journey in the valleys; it never wanders far from water. On September 20 I took a nest on the hills near the Colony; it was a very neat structure of wool, feathers, and the flowers of a grass, and placed in the centre of a thick bush, about a foot above the ground. It contained two eggs of a pale green colour, thickly mottled with dull chocolate spots and streaks.”

THE NESTING OF THE PILOT BIRD (*PYCNOPTILUS FLOCCOSUS*)

By S. A. LAWRENCE and R. T. LITTLEJOHNS

Textbooks invariably mention the Pilot Bird as being rare, but in the dense, scrubby gullies of the Dandenong Ranges (Victoria) they may often be seen by the keen observer who knows where to look and what to look for. Their comparative silence and unobtrusive habits render their detection difficult until such time as the observer learns to recognize the quiet call and the class of country which they frequent.

The writers visited the ranges many times before the birds were noticed, but since making their acquaintance numbers have been seen and several nests located. The bird is to a great extent a ground-lover, very rarely flying, and if forced to take wing flies low, never higher than a foot or two. They travel on the ground as a rule, and their rapid passage through the undergrowth makes them very difficult to follow. We have on one or two occasions seen the birds perch on a shrub, but only at a height of 2 or 3 feet. Their food consists of beetles, worms, and small freshwater mussels, which are found in the damp gullies of these Ranges. The birds are very local in habit, never moving far from one particular spot.

Our first nest of this species was discovered quite by accident. We were scrambling down the side of a dense scrubby gully at Olinda with some bird-lover friends, when one of the party, while stepping over a log, kicked against a tangle of dry bracken; instantly a loud clamouring arose, and on searching we discovered a dome-shaped nest containing two fine, unfledged youngsters. The nest was quite new to us all at that time, so we waited for the adult birds to appear. The female arrived first, after some considerable time, but we were still in the dark as to what species the bird belonged. It was not until we arrived at the camp and consulted Dr. Leach's *Australian Bird Book* that we discovered what our find was. This bird was very tame on arriving at the nest with food for the young, and proceeded to feed them without taking the slightest notice of our party, who were sitting only a few feet distant. We stayed by the nest while we had lunch, and the birds became so tame as to take bread from our hands. We

decided before we left that as the birds looked such promising subjects for the cameras, we would devote the next day to photography. We arrived at the nest early next morning, and the birds, as before, were hand tame. Their habit, however, of bringing food only once in 20 minutes or so did not give us many opportunities for exposures, especially as they fed the young and departed quickly. We finally tried an old scheme of ours, which as a rule proves effective with dome-shaped nests. We blocked the entrance up with paper. The parents on arrival were rather surprised, but it served our purpose well, keeping them around the nest looking for the opening. From this on we had unlimited opportunities during the day, but owing to our inexperience with the cameras at that time the results were rather poor, the two photographs reproduced being the total of many plates exposed. We greatly regretted the fact that this was the last day of our stay, as we would have liked to have devoted more time to the study of these interesting birds.

We located our next nest at Ferny Creek, in the same district, the following season. It was built at the base of a clump of sword-grass, a common situation for these birds to choose, and contained two eggs. It was only after considerable time and patience were expended, however, that we succeeded in tracking the birds to their nest. They had not commenced to sit, and we had to give up the idea of photography until a later period. We visited the nest when the young had hatched, and as in the previous case the visits of the parents with food were some distance apart. The weather on this occasion was very doubtful, being inclined to rain, a by no means uncommon occurrence in this district at any time of the year, as we have frequently found to our cost. Indeed, it always seemed to us to rain in these parts when we had some interesting subject on hand. Of course, with our simple apparatus dull weather is fatal, sunlight being necessary for the short exposures we make.

We found, as before, it was necessary to close the entrance of the nest to keep the parents close by. The food for the young on this particular occasion was large moths, and it was most amusing to see how indignant the adults were when they found they could not get to their chicks with food. They got so taken up with trying to find the



Photo by R. T. Littlejohns.

Generosity of S. A. Lawrence.

PILOT BIRD
(*Pycnoptilus floccosus*).

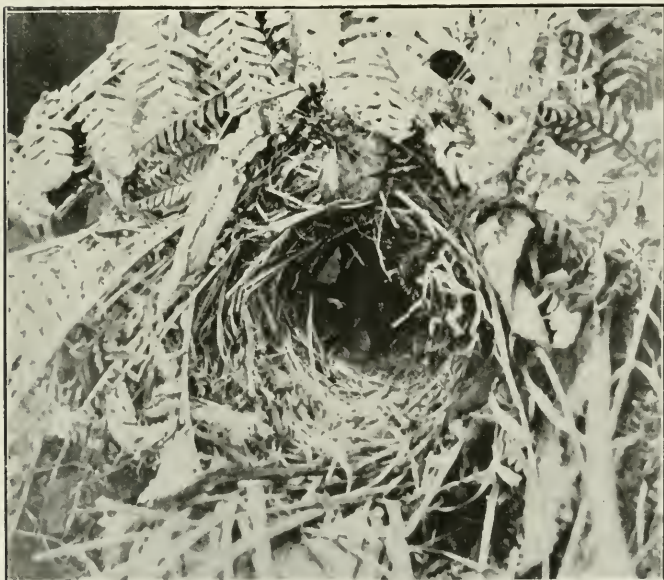


Photo by S. A. Lawrence.

Generosity of S. A. Lawrence.

NEST OF PILOT BIRD.

[To face p. 128.]

entrance that they forgot the presence of the cameras and ourselves entirely. When we picked some of the moths out of the female's bill she angrily snatched them back! We were greatly astonished, and wished we had some of our friends present to witness this remarkable tameness in wild birds. Unfortunately the photographs taken were very much under-exposed, and the rain coming on heavily we had a wet two miles' tramp to the hut.

The breeding season for the birds extends from August to December, and occasionally later. The nest is built on the ground or very low down in a clump of sword-grass or dead bracken. It is a dome-shaped structure, built of strips of bark, bracken, and gum-leaves. A platform composed of sword-grass stems and twigs appears before the entrance. The eggs, which are two in number, are very beautiful, being light chocolate varying to olive-green.

It is said by some that the Pilot Bird derives its name from the fact that it is frequently found in close proximity to the Lyre Bird. It certainly inhabits the same class of country, and we ourselves have heard the Lyre Bird calling close by when we have been operating at the nest of a Pilot Bird.

AVICULTURAL NOTES

BLUE BUDGERIGARS.—I have been lucky enough at last to breed Blue Budgerigars, after a lot of trouble, expense, and disappointment, *but have done it*; I do not like to be beaten. I have also on eggs Red-rumps, Peach-faced and Black-cheeked Lovebirds; also a few Finches, so if I am as lucky with these as with the Budgerigars I shall have a good season.—T. HEBB.

CONURE BARE OF FEATHERS.—On p. 18 Mr. Shore Baily refers to a bird of his, and I remember seeing a Conure in the Zoo long ago in similar bare condition. A stranger with whom I once conversed told me of a similar "Parrot" which recovered. The owner used to water his other Parrots from overhead with a watering-can in hot weather, except the bare individual, which he feared would not survive such treatment. A friend being left in charge watered *all* the birds. The

bald one began to improve, and finally returned to normal plumage. Whether this was a result of watering or merely a coincidence I cannot say.—F. D. WELCH.

REVIEW

THE BUZZARD AT HOME. By ARTHUR BROOK. With twelve photographic plates. London: Witherby & Co. 3s. 6d. net.

This is one of those valuable little booklets which fortunately are increasing in number every year. All the information contained in it has been acquired at first hand, and Mr. Brook tells his story with simplicity and restraint. The twelve plates illustrating the text are full of life and movement, and for that reason are far more interesting than more technically perfect photographs of a motionless bird ever could be.

Only a bird photographer can adequately appreciate the difficulties Mr. Brook had to contend against. The nest was unusually inaccessible, and the choice of a suitable spot for the camera limited in consequence. Mr. Brook calls attention to two traits in the Buzzard's character, which have always been of interest to naturalists. They are harmless, and confined to the adult birds. Some instinct, purely decorative as far as we can judge, induces them to embellish their nest with freshly plucked branches of larch or mountain ash.

The second trait points to something peculiarly sinister in the young Buzzard's nature. The oldest and strongest nestling will savagely attack and devour his weaker brethren. Many young *Raptores* are destroyed more or less accidentally in the nest when there is a marked difference in their ages; but only the young Buzzard habitually bears the hall-mark of Cain, and with his brethren inside brazenly faces his accuser and cynically asks: "Am I my brother's keeper?"

The most interesting point in this little monograph is the nursery diet as supplied by the parents. The menu is a varied one, and consists of young Ducks, Moles, Frogs, Mice (including Shrews), and small Rats. Unfortunately Mr. Brook's records did not begin until the nestlings were about ten days' old. The careful way in which all

the Raptores feed their newly hatched young is one of the most attractive things about them.

This booklet errs on the side of brevity ; to wish there was more is the chief art of letter-writing, and evidently Mr. Brook considers that Sam Weller's philosophy applies equally to books.

E. L. TURNER.

FULL CIRCLE : REVIVED AVICULTURE

DEAR DR. RENSCHAW,—I heartily approve of the new policy of returning to purely avicultural matters, and I think that most of our members will do so too. It will be good to get our Magazine back to its old form, and though it will make those who, like myself, are still debarred from keeping birds feel sorely envious, I hope we shall hear of many breeding successes. I see that Yellow-winged Sugar-birds are again obtainable ; perhaps some lucky person will succeed with them now.—Yours sincerely,

ETHEL F. CHAWNER.

DEAR DR. RENSCHAW,—I quite agree that we do want more true avicultural articles, as one of the most valuable aspects of such a Society as ours is to put on record the behaviour of any given species during the whole period of incubation and the rearing of the young in a way not possible, at any rate, in the majority of foreign species in the wild state.—Sincerely yours,

T. H. NEWMAN.

DEAR DR. GRAHAM RENSCHAW,—There is a pretty general feeling among members that it would be an advantage if the Magazine could contain a greater proportion of definitely avicultural articles. I should like to support this, as I feel that the success of a publication like ours depends largely upon the preservation of its original character. Observations on foreign birds in a natural state are often interesting and helpful, but notes on common British birds we do not want unless the observer has really got something original to record.—Yours truly,

TAVISTOCK.

DEAR SIR,—I have been interested in reading your editorial remarks in this month's Magazine, and note the change of policy which has been decided upon. May I express the opinion that the change will be decidedly for the best. With every wish for continued success,—
Yours faithfully,

J. J. CASH.

The annual meeting, by kind permission of the Zoological Society, will be held at the Zoo on July 23. Members will meet at 4 p.m. at the Old Refreshment Rooms.

THE LATE SIR ALEXANDER BAIRD

By the death in Cairo of Sir Alexander Baird the Society loses an old and valued member of sixteen years' standing and a keen aviculturist. Owing to the War and for reasons of health the last years of his life have been almost entirely passed at his beautiful house at Matarieh, near Cairo, where he had many aviaries and a nice collection of birds, which it was always his pride and pleasure to show to anyone who was interested. Apart from his love of birds and natural history, he was a man of wide sympathies and will be mourned not only by a large circle of friends in this country and Egypt but also by many Egyptians—both rich and poor—by whom he was regarded as the true type of a British gentleman.

J. L. BONHOTE.

STOCKTAKING : JULY, 1920

By the generosity of a Member we are able for the first time for some years to publish a coloured plate. By the kindness of others we add three photographs to the two usually issued. These six illustrations constitute a post-War record for a single number.

The Magazine has rocketed from its parochial status to become the leading cage-bird journal in the world. Amid the general havoc of the War, when natural history journals went down like ninepins, it held a steady course, guarded and guided. To-day it is alive and up to date, a valuable property. Outside contributors write for it, the general public takes it in; private letters from all over the world voice the esteem in which it is held. Across the Atlantic not only has the Press of America described it in most gratifying terms, but a journal of high standing has published reprints from its pages. It has become a standard periodical, a work of reference consulted far beyond the circle of the Society. Its success is attributable to the high standard of its articles and the interest of its illustrations; its record of achievement is high.

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An interesting announcement will be found on the last page of this issue.

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The Editor will no longer tolerate the behaviour of a certain section of the Society.

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Passing to more important matters, the Editor is now a "free lance" and invites suggestions for the future. There is room, for example, for a new natural history journal, which would go like wildfire.

THE EDITOR REGRETS THAT OWING
TO THE ACTION OF CERTAIN MEMBERS
OF THE COUNCIL HE IS UNABLE TO
CONTINUE THE EDITORSHIP OR HIS
MEMBERSHIP OF THE SOCIETY

THE AVICULTURAL MAGAZINE

BEING THE JOURNAL OF
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FOREIGN & BRITISH BIRDS
IN FREEDOM & CAPTIVITY

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AUGUST, 1920.

MISCELLANIES

By HUBERT D. ASTLEY, M.A.

(Continued from p. 119.)

I have mentioned that four young Monauls were hatched in May under a Rhode Island Red (one of which, when six weeks old, was killed by a rat, I believe the only female in the brood), and I was very astonished in the second week of July when the parent Monaul appeared in her aviary with five more chicks. I did not know she was sitting in the roosting-house amongst some bracken litter on the floor. I had been in Italy, and my bird keeper hid the fact from me in order to give me a surprise, in which plan he most admirably succeeded. I was approaching the aviary with a friend, when the latter exclaimed, "Oh, look at the little ones!"—"What little ones?"—"Why, the little pheasants." There was the pair of Monauls leading about five chicks, the hen bird digging for all she was worth for worms. Last year she incubated a second clutch of eggs, but deserted them the day before they hatched, and fortunately the eggs were conveyed in time to a farmyard hen, who had been broody for a fortnight or more, and duly hatched. Sitting on her nest in the dead bracken the Monaul was almost completely camouflaged, and she sat perfectly steady whilst matutinal cleansings on the part of the aviary keeper were taking place. The aviary is by no means a large one; the flight is about the size of one

of the smaller enclosures of the western aviary at the London Zoological Gardens, the roosting-house being but 8 feet square. I do not know if Monauls have incubated and hatched their young on previous occasions in captivity. There are Doves and Parrakeets in the same enclosure, which is by no means a quiet retreat. The hen Monaul has laid nine eggs these last two seasons respectively. Had she been in a spacious grass enclosure with trees and shrubs I should not have been so surprised. She seems to promise to rear her young successfully. The male, usually quiescent by the middle of July, displayed to her, in spite of faded plumage; no doubt inspired by pride in the presence of a complete family circle.

My Ducks have hatched off broods, but the Ducklings all die or disappear within a few days, and I failed to find the eggs in the nests. There was a fine brood of nine Rosybills, some Chiloe Widgeon and Tufted Ducks, and also three Bar-headed goslings, which I particularly hoped to save. A stoat must have taken them.

My beautiful Golden-naped Woodpecker (*Chrysophlegma flavinucha*) flourishes, although he all but accomplished the opposite. I brought him to show a friend. The bird was on my shoulders, and I foolishly failed to notice that one of the windows was slightly open. The woodpecker took fright, flew round the room, and just happened to slip out. That was on a Saturday. On the following day someone saw him in an orchard about half a mile from the house, but I was not informed of the fact until the Monday, when I went to search. My friend, in the meanwhile, on leaving that morning turned to me as he said good-bye, and added, "Your Woodpecker will be found before the day is out." That afternoon a small boy—a boy scout—appeared with a basket in which was the Woodpecker in an apparently moribund condition. It had been discovered at the foot of a tree about two miles away. I placed the poor bird near the kitchen fire, gave him a little milk fortified with a touch of brandy, and after looking as if he would succumb any minute he so far recovered in a couple of hours as to be able to eat. In two days he was quite himself again, and evidently very delighted to be safely home. He had been unable to find food, in spite of having been at large in a thoroughly "woodpeckery" country.

I suppose him to be the only specimen of his kind in Europe. A

native of the Himalayas, he is about the same size as our Green Woodpecker. The nuchal crest (extending to the nape of the neck) resembles the helmet of a Greek warrior of ancient days, and is a brilliant golden yellow. The back is green, the flights chestnut barred with black, the underparts olive grey-brown. But a sketchy description, I realize !

He loves cheese, and if anything is held a couple of inches away outside his cage his long pink tongue is protruded through the bars, quivering and slithering all round the object of his research, be it a ring on a finger, a sleeve of a coat, or anything else. His usual food is an insectile mixture, but fruit is also welcomed.

My Motmot still flourishes : I have had him since July, 1914. He is very omnivorous in his feeding, and swallows down large shreds of lettuce and sow-thistle leaves, which may in part account for his beautiful condition. A mouse skinned and cut up is very welcome.

In July I received what I believe to be a rare importation amongst Guans. I am not sure of the species. This Guan is the size of a hen pheasant, with a very slender snake-like neck. The prevailing colour is black, relieved by a whitish crest and by narrow white streaks on the shoulders, with a patch of the same colour on the wing-coverts. The bare skin of the face is pale grey-blue, the bill being the same with a blackish tip. Legs and feet, red. The tarsi are rather short. The eyes, which are full, are of a rich burnt-siena brown. The bird is tame, and decidedly out of the common in colouring and appearance.

I have four British Nightingales, which I keep in cages with deep sand drawers, placing in them at least an inch of sand, earth, and cedar litter well mixed together, which is easily raked over every morning ; so that the birds are able to keep their feet in good condition, always a matter of importance with Nightingales. In the summer I keep up a supply of gentles, which are placed in a large bowl of fine meal until they are perfectly white and clean, and are then thrown into the sand drawer, where the birds can hunt for them. Wasp grubs are, of course, most useful. Live food is absolutely necessary for Nightingales if they are to really flourish. The cocoons of the gentles are excellent for them. When will mealworms once more be on the market in available numbers ?

Mr. Galloway, of Caversham, sent me a pair of Long-tailed Titmice—"Mumruffle" is their name in Herefordshire. One rejoices to find that this delicious species was not entirely exterminated in that awful winter of 1916-17, but it was touch and go for the Long-tailed Titmice and the Golden-crested Wrens.

This miserable summer of rain and chilly winds has not been conducive towards an increase of young birds in outdoor aviaries, at any rate not in mine. The Queen Alexandra Parrakeets had one brood, three young being found dead in the nesting-box, when nearly fully feathered, after a very chilly night in June. I suppose the parent bird had ceased to cover them. Their crops, however, were full of food. Since then the old birds have not attempted to nest again, which in a warm summer they would have done.

BUFF-BACKED HERONS

By J. LEWIS BONHOTE, M.A.

The new Plumage Bill now before Parliament has brought the question of the farming of Egrets for their plumes¹ to the fore—the trade stating that plumes from India come from farmed birds, while other letters have appeared in the daily Press stating that the farms do not exist. This last statement has, however, been definitely settled by Dr. C. B. Ticehurst (Bull. B.O.C., vol. xl, 1920, p. 152), who gives full particulars of these farms as run in India. It may therefore be of interest to readers of the Magazine to have a few avicultural notes on Buff-backed Herons in captivity in Egypt²

Some fifteen or twenty years ago the Cattle or Buff-backed Egret was one of the most familiar birds in the landscape of Egypt, where they were to be seen following the plough or standing about on freshly irrigated land, but by 1908 they had practically all been wiped out by plume-hunters, who shot them down at their breeding colonies, and in 1912, when by the instrumentality of the late Lord Kitchener a law

¹ See Bonhote, *Avic. Mag.*, Ser. III, Vol. IV, 1912, p. 61.

² Full details have been given in Report of Zoological Service for years 1914-18, p. 79 (1920). To be obtained from Government Press, Cairo, price 3s.

was passed granting them absolute protection, their numbers in Lower Egypt were limited to about 120 pairs in one colony. Major Flower, of the Zoological Service, took up their reinstatement with energy, and aviaries to serve as centres of distribution were built in various places, so that the young when bred might be turned out and form new colonies, whence it was hoped that Egypt would become repopulated.

To show how a protected species may increase under favourable circumstances, I may mention that in five years the original colony had increased from 120 to at least 2,600 nests; in addition to which two fresh colonies had been formed, while in the following year (1918) at least four more additional colonies were started.

In captivity these birds thrive well on raw meat, with a certain amount of small fish at least once a week. They breed freely in confinement and as a rule rear their young without difficulty, requiring no additional food or care as the young are fed by regurgitation from the parents' crops. At the age of from two to three weeks the young stand about on the branches near the nest, and chase importunately any adult bird that settles near them.

In 1914 I determined to try and start a colony in the Giza Gardens, and procured several young birds, which I reared by hand in my garden. At first I took them when about three weeks' old, with the result that as soon as they were able to fend for themselves they left me to seek fresh fields and pastures new, but later on, by taking them two or three days after hatching, they remained about, and proved delightful pets, being absolutely tame and fearless of man. For some weeks they were always about the garden and walked round my breakfast table, grateful for any scraps they were given, but they gradually reverted to their wild habits, and would be away all day, returning at 9 a.m. and 4 p.m. for their food, although they would roost in larger trees elsewhere. Little by little, unfortunately, they would gradually wean themselves, till after some months they seemed to forget their home, although one particular bird returned regularly for about two years. It was, though I regret to say it, only myself that they forgot, for they evidently were mindful of their original home, and by the end of 1916 had persuaded many of their kind that a zoological gardens where birds were allowed at liberty was not a bad sort of place, and by 1917 they decided to fix

upon it as their permanent abode, and some forty pairs settled down to nest. By 1919 the colony had increased to thousands, and it is one of the most charming sights to an ornithologist to stand at their roosting-place any day just before sunset to watch these birds drop in in parties of eight to fifty, and after circling round in graceful evolutions drop into the trees, where with much noise the events of their busy day are eagerly discussed before darkness sends them off to sleep. With but little imagination one can fancy them, like sportsmen in the smoking-room after dinner, relating their prowess with large fish or entering into a heated argument as to the best methods of landing their prey or the best places where sport is to be got.

In every respect they are most delightful birds and worthy of much study from both the ornithological and avicultural standpoint. They are, in religion, undoubtedly sun-worshippers, and our damp, inhospitable climate does not suit them; none the less they do fairly well here in captivity, though I doubt if they would be likely to breed. But if an aviculturist wants a nice tame companionable bird he cannot do better than keep the Buff-backed Heron.

Most of the remarks in the foregoing article would apply equally well to the Little Egret, from which the "osprey" plumes are got. See Astley, A.M., Ser. III, Vol. IV, 1913, p. 238, and Vol. VIII, 1917, p. 323. This species spent the winter of 1918-19 in the Gardens and at least two pairs remained to breed.

GAMBIAN ROLLERS

By Dr. E. HOPKINSON, D.S.O.

This year I succeeded in getting home a living specimen of *Coracias naevius*, the largest of the Gambian Rollers. He is now in the Zoo. This prompts me to reprint an account of these birds which I wrote some years ago, and to add a few further details.

In the Gambia we have representatives of two genera, *Coracias* and *Eurystomus*, which are among the most conspicuous of our birds on account of the brilliant colours of their plumage, their fearlessness of man, and the habit, which most of them have, of selecting the top of

a bush or an outlying branch of a tree as a perch from which they can watch for their prey, and from which they are constantly flying heavily to the ground, to snap up some locust or other large insect, or perhaps a lizard or other reptile. At all times they are noisy birds, fond of uttering harsh croaks and cries, but more particularly is this the case during the breeding season, when both sexes spend much of their time sporting and tumbling in the air, courting and lovemaking with many a scream and buffet. They are commonly known to the English here as "Jays" or "Blue Jays", from their general superficial resemblance to the bird of that name at home. Their native names are KEER-KUTARONG (Mandingo) and BAKHAR (Joloff).

Coracias senegalensis. SENÉGAL ROLLER.

Range.—Senegambia. (H.L.)

This is the commonest Roller in the Gambia, found everywhere and at all seasons. Although at certain times of the year they are much sought after by the native hunters for their skins, they are generally by no means shy birds, though sufficiently cautious and intelligent to keep at a safe distance from anyone with a gun in his hands. During the dry season they are comparatively quiet, but from May onwards they become noisier and more lively, and indulge more frequently in their rolling, tumbling feats of aerial gymnastics, especially at the courting season, when they are almost all day sporting in the air together, at one moment locked in close embrace and grappling one with another, the next falling like stones, soon to disengage, to rise again and repeat the same performance, while all the time they are doing their best to drive one wild with their harsh screaming cries. At all times they are rather quarrelsome and attack boldly any bird, be it Hawk or other murdering ruffian, which may trespass on what they consider their rights. At bush fires they follow the line of the flames, snapping up the crippled insects and reptiles, often from out of the very centre of the fire, and disputing with the Kites and Hawks for the possession of the choicer morsels. At such times one often sees as many as thirty or forty together, but on ordinary occasions they are found in pairs or singly, but wherever one may be in the bush one cannot go far without at least one Roller being in sight. Their chief colours are brilliant light

blue, chestnut, and black, and they have noticeably forked tails, the outer feather on each side being elongated and tapered. The following description is that of a full-plumaged adult shot November 23, 1905.

Crown and nape, pale bluish-green with a pale brown forehead and eye streak; back and mantle, pale chestnut; lesser wing-coverts, bright ultramarine blue; middle coverts, Cambridge blue with a greenish tinge; cubitals, chestnut, like the back; great coverts, clear Cambridge blue; basal halves of flight feathers the same; distal halves, ultramarine with black inner edges; rump, bright ultramarine; upper tail-coverts, also ultramarine but with Cambridge blue bases and narrow tips. The two central tail feathers are, above, greenish-grey; the others (except the outer long ones) ultramarine at bases, Cambridge blue at ends, the amount of light blue increasing from within outwards; the external feather on each side ($3\frac{1}{2}$ inches longer than the others) is Cambridge blue with the central shaft and whole of the last $3\frac{1}{2}$ inches black. Below: chin, pale brown; cheeks and throat, greenish blue streaked with lighter; breast, abdomen, and under tail-coverts, clear Cambridge blue; under surface of tail like the upper, but the light blue extends rather further; under wing-coverts, bright Cambridge blue; under surface of flights like the upper, but the two blues are not quite so clear in colour; bill, black; legs and feet, greyish olive; irides, burnt sienna; length (to end of middle tail feathers), 12 inches.

(To be continued.)

PARROTS

By the late O. E. CRESSWELL

(Communicated by Miss Frances Cresswell)

(Concluded from p. 107)

The best-known and most distinctive of a multitude of species are the large Lemon-crested; the lovely Leadbeater, with delicate pink tints like crushed strawberries on a white ground, and a splendid tricoloured crest of scarlet, orange, and white; and the very common and cheap Rose-crested bird, with grey body and pale pink head. Then there is the peculiar and little-known Gang Gang, grey with

scarlet head, from Victoria and parts of Tasmania ; it was mentioned by Capt. Cook in his journal, and figured by Lesson in 1802. Greatest of all is the terrific-looking Black Goliath of New Guinea, a rival of the Hyacinthine Macaw as to mere size among the Psittacidae.

Then we have the very gorgeous *Trichoglossi* or Lorikeets, and though they are smaller than the East Indian Lories, and have long instead of short tails, they follow their habit in being lovers of the honey of flowers and of rich fruits, and so are not easy to reconcile to our English fare. The most beautiful are Swainson's Lorikeet (*alias* the "Blue Mountain" Lory), the Ornate Lorikeet, and the Swift Lorikeet.

Another large and charming group are the *Platycerci* or Broad-tails. Perhaps the most splendid, and certainly one of the rarest to reach these shores alive, is the Stanley Parrakeet—so called after the thirteenth Earl of Derby, the collector of the most princely private menagerie ever seen in England, if not in Europe. Another example is the Pennant Parrakeet, sometimes erroneously called a Lory, glowing with colour when seen in the sun, and not inaptly called by its early discoverers the Purple and the Glorious Parrakeet. Then the brilliant Rosellas are also *Platycerci*—the Rosy, the Pale-headed, and the Yellow-backed. There are a troop of other beautiful forms, and as a link between this family and the Lorikeets comes the small genus *Polytelis*, with three species, one of which, the Barraband, is quite well known.

Another immense and exquisitely beautiful tribe are the little Grass Parrakeets. Loveliest among them are the Splendid, followed closely by the Many-coloured and the Tourquoise, the Elegant, Bourke's, and the Red-backed. The last is the most brilliant, perhaps, but typical of the form of them all. Then there is the quaint Cockatiel, and least of all the Budgerigar or Undulated Grass Parrakeet ; both these species breed like Sparrows in English aviaries.

The Parrots of New Guinea afford fresh and ever-widening scope for the study of ornithologists. I will only allude to one genus, the *Eclectus* ; they are large and handsome birds, though dull and uninteresting, and have one peculiarity, a striking one. The brilliance of the female far exceeds that of her mate. While he is of a sober green, she is clad in wondrous shades of crimson, purple, and orange, which melt into each other through an indescribable sheen. Considering the

beauty of the *Eclecti* and the distance they come, they are often offered at low prices—probably that a sale may anticipate death, for they do not seem to thrive in captivity, and I do not advise any friends to invest in them.

The third part of this paper can be easily curtailed; I mean the hints upon the treatment of Parrots in captivity, for I have already much encroached upon it by frequently alluding to the peculiar habits of each race in describing it. Broadly speaking the Indian Psittacidæ are delicate and not easily acclimatized. Still, there are exceptions to this rule in the common Ring-necked Bengal Parrakeet and the Alexandrine, which like most of the Cockatoos are very hardy.

The African Parrots vary—the Grey and the Senegal are victims too often of the mysterious ship fever of modern times. I am credibly informed that not more than one in a hundred of the imported Grey Parrots survives three months. The disease is fearfully infectious and contagious, and if anyone has the misfortune to lose a Parrot from septic fever the cage should be at once subjected to heat (there is a place in London where this can be done) or every occupant of the same species will infallibly die. It is, however, a curious fact that if a Grey Parrot has fever, though every Grey or Senegal Parrot in the house will take it, it frequently happens that Parrots of other species are not affected. The African Lovebirds are fairly hardy, but will not comfortably pass the English winter out of doors. All the South American Parrots are hardy; most of the Conures and Macaws extremely so. Through the terrific winter of 1878–9 my friend Mr. Dutton, who lives in a bleak region of Gloucestershire, had a hen Macaw which persisted in sleeping in the top of the highest elm-trees! Morning after morning he whistled at his bedroom window at sunrise, and down she flew to him. He expected each morning to be her last, but she survived it all and was none the worse. I knew a fine aviary at Sharsley Hall, near Bridgnorth, in which a number of the Macaw and Cockatoo families lived for many years with no heating and only slight protection in winter. The Australian Parrakeets vary immensely in hardiness. Some of the Rosellas and the little Budgerigars will pass an English winter out of doors with impunity, while the *Euphema* tribe would probably soon succumb.

I beg humbly to apologize for the length of this address, and only hope that it may enable you to take a fresh interest in any of this exotic tribe, which you may see either alive or portrayed. Surely a feathered race endowed with such singular powers, both of brain and voice, was not created without purpose, but was intended for the delight and sometimes for the solace of the human race.

STRAY NOTES

Mr. Walter Goodfellow, who is well known to members of the Avicultural Society as a great traveller who has imported some of the rarest of foreign birds in years gone by, has been spending the last few years in managing a plantation in Bolivia, a most out-of-the-way part of the world with a very bad climate. Although thoroughly used to tropical climates, he has suffered much, though when I met him in the Zoological Gardens the other day he seemed to have quite recovered. He consoled himself for the lack of fellow white men by collecting around him native beasts and birds, and brought a few home, some of which I understand have gone to our member Mr. E. J. Brook. To the Zoological Gardens he presented amongst other things a splendid pair of small Macaws of a species never before seen in this country. *Ara aureicollis*, the Yellow-collared Macaw, a species somewhat like Illiger's Macaw, but carrying on the nape a conspicuous collar of bright yellow.

* * * *

Another great friend, and one of the best of aviculturists, who has just returned home is Dr. E. Hopkinson, D.S.O., who, like Mr. Goodfellow, would not be happy if he travelled home without some birds. He brought from the Gambia a beautiful specimen of the White-eared Scops Owl (*Scops leucotis*), a lovely specimen of the African Roller (*Coracias naevius*), some Masked and Vinaceous Doves, and a great rarity, never before imported, in the form of a specimen of the West African Chat-Thrush (*Cossypha atricapilla*). He has generously presented most of these to the Zoological Society, but the *Cossypha*

to Mr. Ezra, who knows how to treat rare softbills as well as anyone I know.

* * * *

The aviaries at the Zoological Gardens are fast assuming their pre-War appearance, and may, in fact, be said to be quite well stocked. Two most valuable collections have recently been received, one consisting of some two hundred birds from New York, presented by the Zoological Society of that State, the other from India, brought home by Mr. E. W. Harper.

* * * *

The American birds are especially valuable nowadays, since the exportation of native birds is prohibited in the ordinary course. It is delightful to again have the Blue-bird, the Bobolink, the Red-winged Blackbird, and the various species of *Zonotrichia*, which the Americans call "Sparrows". Some of these are delightful aviary birds, hardy and beautiful. The White-crowned Sparrow is charming, and so is the Fox Sparrow, but most of all do I like the White-throated Sparrow, which is of a rich brown colour with conspicuous white throat and eye-stripes and a spot of bright yellow on each side of the face. The birds from New York were not all North American; there were several from Central and South America: the Double-striped Thicknee of Central America was represented by a beautiful pair; a Dérbian Screamer, a Northern Boatbill, some Guans, Aracaris, and a Toucan came also, as well as some Australian species. Altogether it is a splendid collection and a most generous present.

* * * *

The Indian collection contained no very great rarities, but a most useful lot of birds, not to mention some most valuable mammals. There were Vultures, Eagles, and Kites, Blue Pies and Wandering Tree Pies, Blue-cheeked Barbets, and White-eared Bulbuls.

* * * *

Mr. L. S. Crandall, the Curator of Birds to the New York Zoological Society, has been over here making a collection of mammals, birds, and reptiles, which has now sailed. I think every dealer's establishment not only in this country but also in France, Belgium, and Holland

was visited, and a really fine collection secured. The specimens were temporarily accommodated in the Zoological Gardens, and a large Pickford's steam-wagon and trailer was needed to convey them to the ship at Tilbury, where Bailey, the keeper of the Western Aviary, took charge, and will, I hope, be able to land them all alive and well on the other side.

D. SETH-SMITH.

REVIEW

THE JOURNAL OF THE MUSEUM OF COMPARATIVE OÖLOGY. Santa Barbara, California.

In the first number of this journal we are informed that the location of the Museum was chosen chiefly because of the excellence of the climate of Santa Barbara, its suitability to the preservation of bird's eggs, and its attraction for numerous visitors from all parts of the civilized world. The bodies associated with the Museum are indicated as follows: Board of Visitors, Fellows, Patrons, Members, Patron Collectors, Field Members, Exchange Collectors, Corresponding Members, and Authorized Collectors. An evidently excellent portrait of the late Roland Gibson Hazard, formerly a greatly respected trustee and honorary curator of the Museum, fronts the first page.

It is proposed gradually to bring together nests and eggs of all known species of birds, in the interests of science and with the hope that the study of them may throw light upon the evolution of species and bird-relationships. Personally we fail to see how such extraordinarily variable objects (both in form and colour) as are many birds' eggs, not to mention nests, can possibly demonstrate affinity between bird species; but we do think that other points of considerable interest may be elucidated.

On p. 15 we read: "Variation in nature, its presence or absence, its range within the limits of a species, and, above all, its causes—these are the problems to the solution of which comparative oölogy especially addresses itself." With this view I concur, and, as I pointed out (*Agricultural Magazine*, 3rd Series, Vol. VII, pp. 193–6), I had reason to believe that moist heat or its absence had a great influence upon the colouring

and markings of eggs. With this object in view the Museum authorities have decided that it is necessary to secure a considerable amount of material, as also to settle the question whether or not the variation is produced by local conditions. If one turns to p. 11, where there is a photograph of clutches and single eggs of the Tricoloured Redwing, it will be at once seen that the Museum is not likely to fail for lack of material; indeed, one might justly condemn such wholesale acquisition of eggs, even of a common species, though they were ten times more variable. (See *Avicultural Magazine*, 3rd Series, Vol. IV, p. 282.) But just as many clutches are considered necessary to indicate the variability in one species, so in another we are informed that twenty sets are prized precisely because they do not vary. We should have thought that two or three clutches at the outside, accompanied by a printed statement to the effect that the eggs of this species were not variable, would have answered the purpose quite as well without making havoc of so many birds' homes. Of course, we have an English bird whose eggs exhibit more wonderful variation than any of its relatives, and might be robbed to an unlimited extent without causing much grief to most of us, and that is our House Sparrow.

A. G. BUTLER.

THE COUNCIL MEETING

The annual meeting was held at the Zoological Gardens on July 23. Owing to the lateness of the publication of the July number, only a small number of members were present, but those who came enjoyed an excellent tea in the Fellows' Pavilion, when matters avicultural were discussed, after which the party broke up into smaller sections and paid visits to the many avian treasures in the Zoo, the Small Bird House naturally being the centre of attraction.

A meeting of the Council was held on the same afternoon at 3 o'clock, when various matters concerning the welfare of the Society were discussed. Chief among these was the necessity of accepting a revised estimate from the Printers, due to general trade conditions. Owing to this largely increased cost, the finances of the Society will require very careful management, and there will be no surplus for illustrations.

It is earnestly hoped, therefore, that members will assist by contributions to the Illustration Fund and by doing their best to increase the membership.

In view of the remarks of the late Editor, as published in the Magazine, and to which the Council took great exception, it became necessary to find a new Editor. Messrs. Pocock and Seth-Smith very kindly offered to act as temporary co-Editors pending the appointment of a permanent successor to Dr. Renshaw. This offer was most thankfully accepted, and the Council feel sure that members will loyally support these gentlemen who have stepped into the breach to give them their Magazine by sending them as copy, notes on their avicultural experiences.

CORRESPONDENCE

LIVE BIRDS FROM BRAZIL

SIRS,—In view of the difficulty of procuring foreign birds at the present time it may interest your readers to know that M. Jacques Lefevre is shortly going to Brazil and would be pleased to do his best to procure any live birds for members. All arrangements should be made direct with M. Lefevre, whose address is 88 Avenue de Suffran XV^e, Paris.

J. L. BONHOTE.

THE SENEGAL PARROT

SIRS,—Mr. Silver in the last number of the Magazine mentions a Senegal Parrot “with tomato-red underparts”, and suggests that these red birds may be the males and the yellow-breasted the females.

* I know these birds well in the Gambia, and as far as Senegal is concerned this is not so. All the birds are yellow-breasted, and the differences between cock and hen are slightly and merely structural, the plumages being identical. I have seen two of the red-breasted (or rather, bellied) to which Mr. Silver refers. One, I know, came from Lagos; it was one of a couple (both alike in plumage) which had lived in Oxford for many years after its importation some time in the nineties. The other I saw on board a ship a few years ago. It came either from Cameroon or Togoland. I have always understood that in that part

of the west coast there is a race of the very handsome Senegals, which, however, are not very common anywhere. The two I have known were not only redder but distinctly larger than any birds of the typical northern race. I should like to know if skins bear out my idea.

E. HOPKINSON.

HOODED SISKIN MULES

SIRS,—A note in the last number was also of particular interest to me. This was not the one on p. 134, but Mr. Astley's article on his Hooded Siskin mule.

I have seen a good many of these birds on my frequent visits to the Canary Islands on my voyages to and from West Africa. A good many are bred there, especially at Grand Canary, where they are known as "Mistos". Misto, of course, merely means hybrid, but these are THE MISTOS in the Canaries. The local name there of the male parent, the Hooded or Red Siskin, is "Cardenal de Caracas".

I have never had a "Misto", but have bought several cock Hooded Siskins, and one year on my way home got two hens, which apparently are but rarely exported from Venezuela. For Mistos large prices were always asked, but the average price of cock Hooded Siskins at the Canaries used to be about a pound. This year, on revisiting the islands after five years' absence, I find that their prices, like that of all other birds (and everything else everywhere, for the matter of that) has soared to £5 or more, though I heard that just as we were leaving two were being offered (and no takers) at £3, and would probably have been handed over as the anchor came up for a visible £2 in British silver.

In pre-War days one was almost always sure of seeing plenty of South American birds at Las Palmas, many of which were very rare, especially in England, for the boats which brought most of them belonged to an Italian line running between Northern S. America and Genoa. This year this trade, which the War stopped, seems to be getting into its stride again, but at prices which would appear prohibitive, though with the sailors buying common Canaries at £1, and 4s. each being asked for the commonest African Waxbill, £5 for a Red Siskin, I suppose, should not seem dear.

E. HOPKINSON.

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GAMBIAN ROLLERS

By Dr. E. HOPKINSON, D.S.O.

(Concluded from p. 142.)

C. cyanogaster. BLUE-BODIED ROLLER.

Range.—Senegambia. (*H.L.*)

This, usually known here as the Brown-headed Roller, is much less common during the dry season than the Senegal Roller, but from May onwards its numbers increase, and during the rains (the breeding season) up to about the end of the year I think the two species are about equally common. Their habits, flight, and food are the same as those of their congeners, and although not possessing the extremely brilliant blues of the Senegal Roller, they are—with their pale brown heads contrasting so pleasingly with the rich dark blues of the body—also very handsome and attractive birds.

Description.—Head, neck, and breast, fawn-brown with silvery reflections on the crown, over the eyes, and on the chin, so that in some lights these parts look silvery, in others (especially when seen at a distance and alive) fawn-coloured. The front of the throat and breast are streaked with silvery white. Back and mantle, olive brown; scapulars, darker; rump and upper tail-coverts, bright Prussian blue, the latter tinged with cobalt; the tail, which does not extend beyond the tips of the closed wings, bright cobalt washed with Prussian blue,

the outer feathers nearly wholly dark blue and black ; greater wing-coverts, ultramarine with a metallic gloss ; basal halves of primaries and of outer secondaries, cobalt, forming a conspicuous broad alar bar ; external halves, Prussian blue ; inner secondaries, olive brown basally, blending with the scapulars, dark blue towards their extremities ; below, bright Prussian blue ; axillaries and under wing-coverts, cobalt, the latter shaded with ashy blue ; edge of wing, dark indigo, almost black ; under surface of tail, cobalt with a greenish wash ; bill, black ; feet, yellow ; irides, dark sienna ; length, 13 inches.

C. naevius. WHITE-NAPED ROLLER.

Range.—North-East and Equatorial Africa, Soudan, Senegambia. (H.L.)

A rather larger bird than the other two, and by far the most Jay-like in appearance of the three, for when seen alive at a little distance its brown upper parts, blue-edged wings, and whitish face-markings give it quite the look of that bird ; but when examined closely the upper parts are found to be dull olive, though they look brown—a shade too almost exactly that of a Jay—in certain lights, while below the colour is pinkish red streaked with white. In the rains it is very common, while a few remain with us throughout the year ; it resembles its relations in habits and diet, but is not nearly such an acrobat on the wing as they are, and is much less aggressive and noisy. Just before the rains begin, when all the Rollers are specially excitable and quarrelsome, I have frequently seen one of these “Jay-like” Rollers being hunted about by one of the Senegal Rollers. One would have thought from their relative sizes that the driving would have been the other way. Their note, too, is not so raucous or quite so unpleasant as that of the others, and may be almost exactly represented by a repetition of the syllables “oo-ah, oo-ah”.

The following description is that of a female (the sexes are alike) shot January 4, 1906 :—

Frontal band, dirty white ; eyebrow, clear white ; a few white feathers form a small nape-spot ; crown to below the white nape-spot, reddish lilac tinged with olive, each feather washed with olive ; mantle, lower nape, and scapulars, olive, looking brown in certain lights ;

lower back, mauve ; rump and upper tail-coverts, light purple. The two central tail feathers, dull oily green, the others dull blue with green edges diminishing in extent from within outwards. Wing-coverts, clear mauve in bend of wing, gradually merging into the reddish lilac of the greater coverts ; coverts at carpal joint and edge of the wing ultramarine ; wing-quills, duller blue, shading into black at inner edges. General colour below, pinky brown streaked with white ; chin shows a few whitish feathers ; throat, sides of neck, breast, and sides, brown with distinct white streaks, the latter getting broader and more diffuse towards the abdomen, which is more pinky brown with hardly any indication of streaks ; thighs, dull mauve ; under wing-coverts, pale reddish, merging into whitish ; under surface of flights, whitish with grey terminal portions. Bill, black ; feet, dirty yellow ochre ; iris, dark brown ; length, 14 inches.

To this description I should add that I think the white nape-spot may be a sexual distinction. In one of my two this year's birds this mark was very slight, in the other larger and more distinct. They are certainly cock and hen. I got them at Kaiaff, in the South Bank Province, Gambia, on May 26 last. Some small boys brought them in, saying that they were "fighting" in the air and had fallen locked together at their feet and been caught before they could disengage. They were quite uninjured and in perfect condition, and we may safely assume, I think, that Venus, not Mars, was the cause of their downfall. I put them together in a large cage, and commencing with locusts and lizards, soon got them accustomed to captivity and in time to take raw meat and fish as well as the natural food. They seemed rather to prefer fish to meat, and of the latter took beef better than mutton, while neither would touch chicken or other white meat, though birds' livers, hearts, etc., were always welcome. The long canoe journey from my province to headquarters was unfortunately too much for one of the pair, but the other thrived, and reached the Zoo a day or two ago. It is, I believe, only the second they have had, the first being one I sent home in 1910. As far as I know these are the only specimens to reach Europe alive, but on this I wait further information.

Rollers are not exactly good cage-birds nor easy to keep, except when natural food can be provided. This is quite easy in the African

bush, where lizards, grasshoppers, etc., are abundant, but when it comes to town life, even in Africa, where such things are not obtainable, meat has to be the staple diet, and on this they do not do so well, though when this can be supplemented with cockroaches, mealworms, small mice, and even small birds, Rollers keep in fair health, and being by no means timid birds in confinement do not knock themselves about or spoil their plumage.

The fourth Gambian Roller belongs to a different genus. It is :—

Eurystomus afer. The BROAD-BILLED ROLLER.

Range.—Tropical Africa. (H.L.)

These are smaller birds than the typical Rollers, and very different in shape, being built somewhat on the lines of a big-bodied swallow, with a broad, triangular bill and very wide gape. In the Gambia they arrive about the beginning of May and commence breeding almost at once, before the rains set in. This year and once before I have had young almost full-feathered brought me, but have not been able to keep them. They lived well enough while crammed with white ants or other insects, but would never pick up food for themselves, and I presume that their chief food is small insects caught in flight.

They are usually found in parties of twenty or more; but I have frequently seen parties of a hundred or more, especially at the beginning and end of their stay with us, May and December. They haunt places where there are large trees, the upper branches of which are their usual perches, and round the tops of which they float and wheel in the air like large Swallows, as soon as the cool of the sunset hour approaches; they then fill the upper air with their shrill chattering, and continue their flight far into the night, especially when there is a moon, eventually retiring to roost in company on the topmost branches of some large tree. In the mornings, too, before the sun gets hot, one often sees flocks of them on the wing, but during the heat of the day they are quiescent. Like the Senegal Rollers their skins have a certain value to the native hunters, as they fetch 50 centimes at the French ports.

The general colour above is cinnamon brown, the rump and upper tail-coverts dull blue; the wings are blue, the lateral tail feathers bright blue, shading at the ends into darker blue, while the middle

ones are dull blue washed with black. Below, from face to belly, they are a lovely purple- or reddish-mauve, and the eyebrow is marked with a slight tinge of the same colour ; the lower belly, the inner webs of the under surface of the wing-feathers, and the under tail-coverts are pale blue. Bill, yellow ; legs, greenish-brown. Length, 10 inches.

Note.—H. L. = The British Museum Hand-List of Birds, 1899-1909.

AVICULTURE AND WILD BIRD PROTECTION

By E. G. B. MEADE-WALDO, M.A., F.L.S., M.B.O.U.

Aviculture and bird protection are closely connected, and there is no more delightful form of aviculture than the encouragement and study of bird-life in one's gardens and surroundings. By observing the habits and necessities of species in a wild state the possessor of kindred species or genera should be able to keep the captives in health, by noticing and recording such things as the changes of foods according to the seasons of the year. That seed-eating birds, for example, can only get ripe seed during a portion of the year ; that fruit-eaters can only procure ripe fruit during a comparatively short time ; that almost all insect-eaters require fruit at some period of their summer life. Also with regard to nesting, the kind of site most suitable and the necessary materials to be supplied for nest-building ; whether or no a species requires a very retired situation, removed from its own and other species, or is comparatively indifferent ; at what period the parents change the food given to the young, and to what it is changed. These and many more important or necessary facts in aviculture can be found out by careful observation of the wild birds that frequent our gardens and immediate surroundings.

The length of life to which wild birds attain is very hard to estimate, and I should be inclined to think that well-kept birds in confinement certainly live longer than birds in a wild state, quite apart from the numerous accidents that the latter are always liable to. It is difficult as a rule to be certain that a wild bird, unless identified by some peculiarity, is always the same individual. A Turtle Dove with a stiff leg used to appear about the

1st May at a certain place at Hever, where we fed our waterfowl, and was noticed for twelve successive years. This was undoubtedly the same bird. A Brown Owl that was caught in a trap and liberated with a lost foot was found in a dying state *thirty-one years afterwards*. This, too, was the same bird. He was well known to our gardeners, and frequented a certain area near the house. He did not breed for some years before his death. Since a predatory bird without a foot must be severely handicapped, I think the long period of thirty-one years worth recording. A cock Pied Wagtail, with a slightly drooping shoulder, nested on this house for eight successive years, and survived the disastrous winter of 1917. He and his mate had three broods each season, the second *brood* generally consisting of a Cuckoo! and the third brood not leaving the nest till early August. I have known some game-birds live very long periods; but these are not always under purely natural conditions. There is a drake Pintail here now, full-winged, and twenty-one years old, which has led a practically wild life; he is nearly tame, and his identity is undoubted. He was the father of a healthy brood of young this summer. Waterfowl are certainly very long lived.

It is generally supposed, and I think quite correctly, that when birds in captivity neglect their young and go to nest again, it is owing to confinement, and possibly to too good living; but the same thing occasionally, though I think rarely, occurs in Nature. A pair of Moorhens on a garden pond here hatched a second brood in early June of this year; some of this batch were, as usual, taken over by members of the first brood, but when they were about a week old the cock first and then the hen refused to feed the young, and when the latter followed, crying for food, would turn on them savagely and give them violent pecks. I saw the hen kill one and eat its brains, and, strange to say, soon afterwards offer food to another! Eventually all but one were killed by the parents, who went to nest again at once and treated their third brood in a proper manner.

So much has already been written about nesting-boxes, etc., that there remains little more to be said. Indeed, I believe I wrote an article on the subject some years ago, but much interesting information can be obtained from them. In the summer of 1917, the result of the

disastrous winter and early spring was very apparent in the nesting-boxes. We have large numbers in our woods round here. Of course, the Great Tit and Blue Tit are the predominating species that occupy them in most years, but in 1917 the Blue Tit was entirely absent and the Great Tit enormously reduced in numbers. The few that remained, however, laid very large clutches of eggs. Many laid fourteen, hatching and rearing all, and some nested again immediately, rearing a further five or six. The Marsh Tit, which did not suffer from the hard winter, nested freely in the boxes, laying normal clutches of seven or eight eggs. It is always a common bird here, but normally only a small number occupy nesting-boxes. The Blue Tit has now quite recovered its numbers, and seems to be extraordinarily prolific. We had several broods of fifteen young this summer. The food supply these last three years has been unlimited owing to the plague of the green oak-moth (*Tortrix viridana*), and all wild birds and game-birds have greatly benefited.

Most aviculturists have looked upon an abundant and suitable supply of food as being sufficient to carry most hardy species through a spell of severe weather. Nevertheless, the Common Bullfinch, whose food supply cannot well have failed, was one of the greatest sufferers in that year. They left the woods, came into the gardens, and died in numbers. We picked up twelve one day on a bed of Mediterranean heath, and they have not recovered their numbers yet. Strange to say, the Goldfinch did not suffer at all. Yet the Northern Bullfinch winters far within the Arctic Circle! It cannot have been entirely food supply, or why should the Long-tailed Tit and Goldcrest have been nearly wiped out? Their food was there all the time. I think there is no doubt that the cold and freezing gales were responsible. In this neighbourhood neither Woodpeckers, Nuthatches, nor Tree-creepers suffered, and the first seem to have greatly benefited by the present absence of the Starling as a breeding species, while the Chaffinch and Goldfinch have replaced the House-Sparrow.

THE COLLARED SUNBIRD (*ANTHOTHREPTES COLLARIS*)

By R. I. POCCOCK, F.R.S.

A notable and interesting addition to the Zoological Society's collection of birds is a pair of collared Sunbirds (*Anthothreptes collaris*), presented by Mr. Harold Millar, the Director of the Zoological Gardens in Durban, who has added much to our knowledge of the ornithology of South Africa. I do not know whether this species has ever been imported alive to England before. Possibly some member of the Avicultural Society may have been fortunate enough to possess it. At all events it appears to be quite new to our Gardens, and makes a welcome appearance in the list of species exhibited by the Zoological Society.

It belongs to the family Nectariniidæ, and has been known for over a hundred years, its first scientific title being *Cinnyris collaris*. Thereafter it passed through the genera *Nectarinia* and *Anthodiata*, and has found, let us hope, its final resting-place in *Anthothreptes*, a genus which contains about a dozen species distributed over Africa and Indo-Malaya, and is characterized by having the bill shorter than the head, or at all events not longer, and only moderately curved, the tail being square or slightly rounded owing to the approximate equality in the length of the feathers.

The typical Collared Sunbird ranges, according to the late Dr. Stark, from the Gamtoos River in Cape Colony, eastward through Eastern Cape Colony to Natal and Zululand. Opinions differ as to the frequency of its occurrence. Dr. Stark, for instance, described it as a common species in Natal, whereas according to Mr. Ayres it is decidedly scarce, though found throughout that province. Possibly the discrepancy in these accounts is due to its abundance in certain years and scarcity in others, owing to local causes, just as is the case with some of our British birds.

Like all the Sunbirds it is a beautiful species, the adult male being metallic golden-green on the head, back, and lesser wing-coverts; the greater coverts and secondaries are brown edged with metallic-green; the primaries brown edged with olive-yellow; the tail-feathers

black edged with metallic-green; the throat metallic golden-green bordered below by a pectoral band of violet, the rest of the under-surface being yellow with bright yellow pectoral tufts. The adult female resembles the male in the coloration of the upper side, but has the entire under-surface yellow. So far, at all events as South Africa is concerned, this Sunbird is exceptional in that both sexes exhibit metallic plumage at all seasons of the year, and even the nestlings, according to Shelley, show the metallic plumage of the adult female. This appears to be one of those cases where a secondary sexual character, originally appertaining to the male alone, is adopted by the female, appears in the young at a comparatively early age, and ceasing to be of sexual significance assumes specific importance. No doubt readers of the *Avicultural Magazine* will recollect many similar cases in birds. The antlers of the reindeer are an instance amongst mammals.

In habits the Collared Sunbird seems to resemble in a general way other members of the family Nectariniidæ. They frequent low, flowering bushes, and are seldom seen on the higher trees. During the winter in Natal, Stark always observed them in larger or smaller parties, busily engaged in hunting over the leaves and flowers in search of small insects and nectar. In that province, at all events, the bird is double-brooded, the first brood being hatched in January and the second in March. The eggs, invariably two in number, as in other Sunbirds, are greyish-white, thickly mottled and spotted with brown and dark grey. The small dome-shaped nest, built of grass and lined with horsehair and feathers, is suspended from the outer twigs and leaves of a bush at no great height from the ground.

The two birds in the Gardens are a lively little couple, looking the embodiment of health and vitality as they dart from place to place in the cage, moving with equal facility and grace along the under and upper side of the branches. They are fed upon Mellin's Food, condensed milk and honey mixed together, grapes, soft banana, the palatability of which they are just beginning to discover, and one mealworm a day each. Lovers of birds will feel well repaid by a special visit to inspect them.

I may add that the typical form of the Collared Sunbird described above is replaced in East Africa by a local race, *Anthothreptes collaris*

hypodilus, which ranges from the southern bank of the Zambesi to British East Africa, and is distinguished by having the upper side metallic golden-copper instead of golden-green.

AVIARIES IN FRANCE

By HUBERT D. ASTLEY, M.A., F.Z.S., M.B.O.U.

I hope to write some account of Monsieur Delacour's aviaries after I have seen them. They are in course of erection at his new home in Normandy—Chateau de Clères, between Dieppe and Rouen.

There are not many enthusiastic aviculturists in France, but Madame Lécailier, at Caudebec-les-Elbeuf, in Normandy, vies along with Monsieur Delacour with any bird-lover in any country. None of her aviaries are large, but they are very numerous,¹ and she adopts the plan of a wired-in passage running along the front of the flights, so that it is impossible for birds to escape, even if anyone entering any particular aviary should leave the door unclosed, since they would only find themselves in the wired passage, the entrance to which is shut on going in. And in these aviaries, except for a larger central one where there are innumerable Budgerigars of all known colours (except white ones, which are still extremely rare), Madame Lécailier keeps not more than two pairs of Parrakeets, in some flights only one, and perhaps a pair of Pheasants (Tragopans, Monauls, *Crossoptilon*, etc.), and consequently she is very successful in breeding them—many colours, Bauer's, Rock Peblers, etc., etc., as well as Conures and Lorikeets.

I should like to see the collection in favourable weather, for I was there on a bitterly cold day in the end of last November, yet even then the Parrakeets of various species were looking robust and apparently much less sensitive to the icy blasts than I was.

On her home farm Madame Lécailier keeps many White Peafowl in addition to her poultry, amongst which I noticed a small flock of Sebastopol Geese with their curious curly feathers.

¹ Before long Madame Lécailier intends to have one hundred! Since writing the above, I visited her aviaries in August. She, like Monsieur Delacour, has an English bird-keeper.

Madame Lécallier and Monsieur Delacour eagerly purchase rarities, and several that have lately come to England have found their way to Madame Lécallier's aviaries, amongst them some Amethyst Starlings and a beautiful African Long-tailed Roller, which I hear is extremely tame. Monsieur A. Decoux is another French aviculturist, who goes in principally for various Waxbills and small Finches, and who has been successful in breeding rare hybrids.

Our French confrères in aviculture will help to instil into us renewed energy as well as creating a friendly rivalry. Monsieur Delacour's pluck in recommencing a collection of birds and mammals after the whole of his magnificent one was destroyed in the War at Villers-Bretonneux, is certainly an example to anyone not to give in on account of losses and disappointments. He became a member of the Avicultural Society when he was about 20 years old, and although still quite young he knows as much as all aviculturists of a more advanced age, and a good deal more than most of any age! He has had birds which many aviculturists have never even seen, and he aims at obtaining those that one knows of as inhabiting the mountains of Tibet, the forests of Java, the valleys of the Himalayas, the jungles of South America, but which to the everyday aviculturist are as fauna of the moon!

RANDOM LINES

By AUBYN TREVOR-BATTYE, M.A., F.Z.S.

In answer to the Editor's request for notes, I wish that I could send some avicultural news of interest, but fear that in its stead I can only offer a few rambling remarks upon the free bird-life of our own district in the past two seasons; and moreover, in doing this I am only too sensible that I have nothing really new to add to that which has been the experience of other observers.

I never remember to have seen so many Warblers. Our particular corner of East Hampshire is not perhaps really well suited to these birds, for we are on the shoulder of a hill which itself runs up the centre of a valley, and is dominated by a great chalk escarpment,

thick with beech and yew, and we have relatively but little deciduous coppice. The open spots on the juniper hills are occupied by Cirl Buntings, Meadow and Tree Pipits, there are Wood Wrens about the beeches, Sedge Warblers and Reed Warblers by the stream, but Nightingales are almost absent, while Chiffchaffs and Willow Wrens are sparsely sprinkled in only a few of the most likely places. This year, however, Chiffchaffs, Willow Wrens, Garden Warblers, and Blackcaps seem to be "everywhere". I think we have nearly as many Tits, of four species (Long-tailed Tit not included), as before the hard winter which reduced them to almost nothing. In short, I am inclined to think that the only birds which have not with us recovered from that disastrous season are the Song Thrush, the Gold Crest, and in a lesser degree the Mistle Thrush, and these last would have worked up their numbers pretty well again but for the Magpies. Magpies have increased amazingly all along the line of our hanging woods; we have fifteen particular pairs belonging, so to say, to this house, and the sight of a Magpie crossing our valley with a callow nestling in its bill and pursued by a pair of Mistle Thrushes was a constant event this spring. As one of the Magpies' nests was but a few paces from my study window, there was an opportunity of seeing the work of nest-building rarely afforded by these secretive birds. They used to remind me of the Plantain-Eater, seen in Africa, which if surprised upon the ground will fly to the lowest branches of the nearest tree, and thence rapidly ascend by hopping from branch to branch. The Magpies behaved in the same way: after collecting "beaksful" of bents in the paddock they would fly to the base of a big ivy-clad ash, rapidly "worm themselves", so to speak, up to its summit, and then slip into the head of the larch in which their nest was built.

Our Carrion Crows have also greatly increased in numbers; if you shut your eyes you may imagine yourself in Cairo or Benares, their croaking is so persistent. I cannot find out that they do much harm to birds; they are most painstaking seekers in the meadow-grass and, of course, pick up any wounded rabbits. I have never noticed any suspicious behaviour on their part along the stream where Ducks are nesting, and wish I could say the same of the Jackdaws.

This is the time of year when we get our daily and nightly visits from Herons, who take serious toll of the big trout. Kingfishers also are hard at work on the fry, and though they are a beautiful feature in this garden I sometimes wish they were not *always* feeding! I may say the same of the foxes, for if it is one of our great delights to watch three large cubs playing on a sunny bank behind the house, they want a *lot* of feeding, and I greatly fear their vixen has been paying attention to the pinioned Waterfowl. If I add that an old hen Sparrowhawk for the second year in succession shot right through the gatehouse into the courtyard and carried off young prize-bred chickens all but as big as partridges, it will be admitted that we have our share of wild-life troubles as well as of its delights and joys.

But we mourn no loss so greatly as that of our Kestrels. We had two pairs, and they nested just above the house. The tiercel of one pair was, for a wild Falcon, a confiding bird; he was my constant delight as he stooped at the voles in the paddock, or rested on his favourite perch, a bare ash bough not thirty yards from where I sit and write.

The story is rather a long one, but briefly it is this. In the autumn and winter of 1918 and the spring of 1919 we suffered from a severe visitation of field-voles and of wood-mice. They were in myriads, and did great damage to the meadow-grass, garden-stuff, and shrubs. They killed laurels and ate through the "collars" of the old yuccas so that the great severed heads lay on the ground. In the woods trees were whittled, and the fine, slender twigs of spindle-trees showed white and glistening through the bark. The Kestrels and Barn Owls had a great time then. Suddenly, in the beginning of April last year, this plague was stayed. In a night, as it seemed, the host had vanished. Not a vole or mouse was to be seen. The traps, in which we had been taking numbers every day, now yielded not one. If it was a relief for us it was not so for the birds; our Kestrels disappeared—I have not seen them since. We also, from the same cause, lost our Barn Owls.

These Owls, who some years ago occupied one of the large Owl-boxes, of which several are fixed up here in trees—one up in a large ash, one in a big oak, another in a big silver-fir, a fourth in a deodar—

changed their quarters and took possession of a dovecote above the stable roof. The dovecote has twelve compartments, with an alighting-board in front of each. It was most entertaining to see the young Owls playing hide-and-seek from one compartment to another. The old birds used to be out well before dusk, quartering the grassland and the garden. In the time of the vole plague it seemed they were scarcely gone before they were back again with food. But early last summer all was changed, for there were no field-mice. The Owls were out in the morning, and hunted all day long, even when the sun was hot. Day after day we saw them from our window, working hard and almost hopelessly. They would frequently return to sit on the walling of the terrace, but their wings drooped, and they seemed to be getting thin and light. Whether they died or went away one could not tell, but there was no Barn Owl's nest in the dovecote last summer, nor have I seen a Barn Owl here since that time.

But now field-mice are in normal numbers, and we have Barn Owls in the dovecote once more. A fortnight ago I noticed a casting in the stable-yard, and these have increased in number, so it is certain that owls are there; moreover, I hear, as I lie in bed, the old familiar screeching. But the ways of the newcomers are not those of the old pair. They have never yet been seen in the dusk. Each evening I go down into the garden, but never yet have seen or heard a Barn Owl at that time; they do not venture out till dark. Also, they are more untidy than our old pair, for these did not leave their castings in the stable-yard.

NOTES ON SCREAMERS

By FREDERICK D. WELCH, M.R.C.S.

As an example of the Derbian Screamer (*Chauna chavaria*) had arrived at the Zoo, I made a special visit in August, 1920, chiefly with the object of hearing its voice and of noticing if its scream agrees with that of the allied species (*C. cristata*), which is also represented in the Gardens.

Although it did not utter anything analogous to the scream of an adult pair of Crested Screamers now opposite to it in the Great

Aviary, it made occasionally a noise like the word "week" in a loud tone, but only singly when heard by me, never repeated. This Derbian Screamer seemed to me not to have yet completed its full size in body growth, although the legs were large and well developed and red as in *C. cristata*; and I therefore arrived at the conclusion that the "week" was the voice of the species when not fully adult. When uttered, it was made while the bird was walking about, and had nothing to do with alarm, thus agreeing with observations I made in former years on the Crested Screamer. In this connexion two scenes noticed with the *C. cristata* opposite to this *C. chavaria* seem worth mentioning, as both again supported my previous remarks.

When one *C. cristata* was pecking at food supplied for the other inmates of the aviary, a pair of Great American Egret (*Herodias egretta*) advanced in a threatening manner towards it, clearly wanting some of the meat, and displaying with their beaks at the Screamer. The latter, without making any noise, faced round on them with wings raised and showing the spurs, a habit I have previously noticed.

Later on, both examples of *C. cristata* were resting on the grass, feeding on it as is their habit, when an Ibis, walking up to them from behind, pecked at the back of one. Here, again, there was no sound uttered by either Screamer, although both at once rose with wings opened, showing spurs, and remained so until the Ibis retreated, after which they sat down and started feeding on grass as before. The voice has nothing to do with alarm. On the ground, both species move rather awkwardly with slow walk, and it was therefore surprising to me to see the ease with which one *C. cristata* rose, about an hour later, and flew down the Aviary; but I was not fortunate enough to see the *C. chavaria* fly, although it frequently raised its wings and looked upwards as if it would do so. While agreeing in general shape and colour with *C. cristata*, the broad, black collar covering most of the neck makes *C. chavaria* more elegant, as does the contrast of red round the eyes, the grey crown and crest, and the prevalence of white on the lower part of the head. The iris is dark brown.

[The example of the Derbian Screamer (*Chauna chavaria*) referred to by Mr. Welch arrived at the Gardens recently with the consignment of birds from New York. Judging from its colours, it appears to be

fully adult, and would in all probability scream if it had a companion to make a duet. A pair of Crested Screamers, that formerly bred in the Gardens, used always to scream in concert, and the striking of the clock in the daytime invariably stimulated their vocal activities. —ED.]

STRAY NOTES

Mr. Hamlyn has been importing quite a number of South African birds lately, and amongst those I have seen have been several rarities. The well-known favourites such as Violet-eared and Dufresne's Waxbills have come in numbers. There have been some rare Barbets, *Tricholema leucomelas*, *Lybius torquatus*, and *Trachyphonus cafer*, Grey Touracous, Red-capped Larks, and two or three species of Sunbird. I secured for the Zoological Gardens three fine examples of Burchell's Glossy Starling, a species not previously represented in the collection. There are quite a number of good birds coming over just now, and aviculturists should be on the look-out for treasures.

* * * *

Before the War the little Masked Dove, *Ena capensis*, was never very freely imported, but it is coming over in some numbers now. I saw a cage full at Messrs. De Von's shop in King's Cross Road the other day, and all locked in quite good condition. It is an attractive little Dove when kept in a warm, sunny aviary, but it cannot stand cold and may be said to be a non-breeder in captivity.—D. S.-S.

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NOTES ON CRANES AT WOBURN

By THE DUCHESS OF BEDFORD

One or two interesting events in the Crane world at Woburn are, perhaps, worth putting on record. A female White-necked Crane (*Anthropoides leucauchen*) paired with a Stanley Crane (*Anthropoides paradisea*), and two chicks were hatched. The young birds are now nearly 3 months old, and are indistinguishable from young Stanley Cranes. This statement I must qualify, however, by saying that I have never seen a young Stanley Crane at this age; but at all events they bear a strong resemblance to the father and are not at all like young White-necked Cranes which I know well.

In Hume & Marshall's *Game Birds of India*, and also in Blaauw's *Monograph of the Cranes*, it is stated that Sarus Cranes pair for life. This statement may be true with regard to the bird in a wild state, but I regret to say that in semi-domestication in Woburn Park, where some are full-winged and those which are pinioned have the whole park to range in, this reputation for conjugal fidelity has been shattered.

For many years previous to the War these Cranes nested and often reared their young. One pair was in the habit of coming daily to be fed at our windows. In another part of the park a second pair nested annually, but in an effort to break the eighth commandment and

take some vegetables out of a kitchen garden, the female caught her head in the fence and was found hanging and lifeless. The male shortly after broke a wing which we amputated, and left him in an enclosure. During the War the remaining pair ceased to breed. Domestic differences were tolerated till this spring, when the female gave the lie to Messrs. Hume and Blaauw, and flew off to the one-winged Crane in the enclosure. The pair unfortunately nested close to a public footpath, where they were constantly disturbed and the eggs did not hatch.

Yet one other tragedy occurred. Two Manchurian Cranes were hatched, and when about 2 months old one was seen to kill the other. Altogether the War has not improved the morals of the Woburn Crane world.

WAGLER'S WOODPECKER (*MELANERPES*
WAGLERI, TABIN & GOODMAN)

By J. DELACOUR

(*With Plate.*)

Since seeing Mr. Astley's wonderful Yellow-naped Woodpecker, I was longing to keep a bird of this family as a cage bird. I thought that there was very little hope of ever being able to do so when M. Fontana, the well-known bird dealer of Bordeaux, wrote me some time ago that he had just received a rare Woodpecker from Central America, asking whether I would care to accept it as a present. Nobody will doubt my answer, and a few days afterwards I received a lovely bird in very good condition. M. Fontana wrote that this specimen had been shipped at Carthagena in Colombia with two other birds of the same species. Unfortunately they were put into a wooden cage, and during the voyage two of them got out of the cage, which was naturally broken by them, flew away, and probably fell into the ocean.

As soon as he arrived at Clères the Woodpecker was put into a wired cage, in which several logs and pieces of rotten wood had been placed for him. Various kinds of food were provided for the bird, but he hardly touched the insectile mixture and meat, but ate greedily some mealworms and ant cocoons. The food he is most fond of is



WAGLER'S WOODPECKER

fruit and boiled potatoes, as well as sponge cake. That seems rather an odd diet for a Woodpecker, and I suspect that my bird, obviously hand-reared, though very timid, has learnt strange habits as regards food owing to his late owner's method of feeding him.

I saw at once that my bird was a young male of some species of *Melanerpes*. His total length is about 7 inches; back, wings, and tail black barred with white, the quill being black; rump white; underparts pale drab, except the abdomen which is orange, and a few dark mottles on the thighs; crown crimson, occiput and nape washed with red; the rest of the head is drab, with a slight touch of yellow near the bill which is dark grey, as well as the feet; eyes dark brown.

The call reminds one of the voice of the Magpie in a small way. I was rather puzzled to determine the exact species of my bird. The plates in the Old Malherbe's *Monographie des Picidies* show me that he resembles very much *Zebrapicus (Melanerpes) rubriventris*; but my Woodpecker could not belong to that species, which lives in Yucatan, since he came from Colombia. At last I came to the conclusion that he was *Melanerpes wagleri*. In captivity my Woodpecker behaves like all his cogeners, and is most attractive in his ways. Though they need special management owing to their habit of destroying wood, Woodpeckers are most desirable cage birds, and I wish more of them could be imported into Europe.

THE NEW COLLECTION AT CHÂTEAU DE CLÈRES

By HUBERT D. ASTLEY, M.A.

Everyone sympathized with Monsieur Delacour when they knew that the whole of his splendid collection of birds was destroyed at Villers Bretonneux, near Amiens, during the War; and all aviculturists will equally rejoice with him that he has been able not only to acquire a very beautiful new home at Clères, half-way between Dieppe and Rouen, but that he has already formed the nucleus of what promises to be a fine gathering of rare birds, and also mammals.

I had the pleasure of staying with him in August. The château itself, which is sixteenth century, with a fifteenth century annexe, is situated in a wooded valley, and a small clear chalk river running close to the house broadens to a miniature lake with two islands, where later on many waterfowl will be assembled.

The ground rises steeply on one side of the water, with splendid trees and grassy glade, whilst on the other the flat meadow-land is again bounded by trees and the wooded line of the hills, all of which exceptional beauty can be viewed from the windows of the château. In the château itself a gallery of 45 feet long opens on to an ancient terrace, and in this gallery Monsieur Delacour has cages and small aviaries which occupy the whole length on one side, whilst on the other are two large aquariums.

The occupants of the bird gallery are Sunbirds (*Mariquensis* and *Malachite*), Blue, Green, and Yellow-winged Sugar birds, Gold-fronted Phyllornis, various Tanagers, such as Necklace, Superb, and one specimen of *Calliste pretiosa*, a very handsome bird with chestnut head, fawn shoulders, and pale blue-green underparts. In another compartment are two Barbets, the Levaillant and the black-collared *Lybius torquatus*, a rare bird, with brilliant scarlet on the fore neck, edged with a broad black band. Budgerigars are represented by green, blue, yellow, apple-green, and olive. Several species of Waxbills and small seed-eaters, Cuban Finches, etc., inhabit another cage-aviary.

Many aviculturists would be quite content to own only the inhabitants of the *Gallerie des Oiseaux*, as it is now called, where once the gallants of the time of Henri IV of France paraded, when it was known as the *Gallerie des Seigneurs*. Opening the door at the farther end, one finds oneself on the terrace, raised high above the drive below, which leads one to the beautiful fifteenth century portion of the château or rather annexe, a charmingly picturesque building in stone, ancient red brick, and red-painted half-timbers of true Norman style of that period. Steeply pitched roofs of mellowed tiles, and two turrets, from the narrow windows of which one expects to see some lady of the time of Henri IV looking down upon one, add to the charm, and if a troubadour in doublet and hose came strolling by playing his viol,

one would not be altogether astonished. Instead of that the songs and cries of bird's voices greet one's ears, for Monsieur Delacour has dedicated the ground-floor rooms to them.

As one enters there are four large and lofty aviary compartments, in which there are such birds as Grey Touracos, various Pies (Blue from South America, Himalayan Wandering Tree-pie, chestnut and black Magpies), a Green-billed Toucan, Glossy Starlings, a pair of rare Pied Shrikes (*Urolestes melanoleucus*) from South Africa, almost the size of the Greater Shrike of Europe, but with long tails; Grey-winged Ouzels, and various Mynahs and Troupials. Opening out of this room is the bird-room proper, where later on Monsieur Delacour hopes to keep Humming-birds, for all is heated from a furnace with hot-water pipes. Here on the wall side are a series of large fixed cages in two tiers, the top one with flat wooden roofs, the lower ones on which they rest having bowed roofs of wire, and these jut beyond the level of the upper storey.

On the window-side a long and broad shelf runs where separate cages are placed. Here are several rarities. A Lesser Paradise bird and a Javanese Golden Oriole (*Oriolus maculatus*); a pair of Cuban Trogons, a rare African Mouse-bird (*Colius erythromelon*), a pair of Amethyst Starlings, a Glossy Calornis Starling, four species of Bulbuls (*Pyrenonotus*, including *P. pygæus*, White-cheeked, and Cape). A splendid Giant Barbet (*Megalæma virens*), a bold and beautiful bird; a Hoary Jungle Barbet (*M. caniceps*). A very rare small Woodpecker, not much larger than the Lesser Spotted of Europe (*Melanerpes wagleri*), from Colombia (Carthagenæ). A bird with Zebra-like black and white body, and a patch of red on the crown. A deliciously tame and lovely African Roller (*Coracias caudatus*), with forked, swallow-like tail, the whole throat and upper breast of a delicate lilac, the underparts Eton blue, the wings and tail bright blue and eau de nil. This bird spreads his wings, calling loudly as a welcome when one enters. As Monsieur Delacour said, Rollers must have plenty of wing exercise, since in a wild state they catch their prey after the manner of swallows, hawking at flying insects.

On the higher ground, concealed from the château by trees, are the magnificent aviaries still unfinished. The whole measure about 98 feet

by 65 feet. One very large one for Waxbills, etc., in which will be flowering shrubs, is 20 metres by 8 metres. Three large divisions in the front. Another of 6 metres by 3 metres and eight smaller ones—3 metres by 2 metres and 3 metres by 4 metres. Of course a metre is 3 ft. 6 in.

Monsieur Delacour has commenced his collection of Water-fowl. A pair of Tufted Duck which he bought in May at once nested and reared a large brood, which in August were able to fly, and charming they looked circling round and disappearing beyond the woods, to return again swishing down on to their sheltered waters in the park. Some Chiloe Widgeon and Pochard were there too, besides Geese (Cereopsis, Ross' Snow Geese, Canadian, Bar-headed, and Magellanic). Monsieur Delacour had the misfortune to lose a pair of the very rare Ashy-headed Geese, and also one of his two Trumpeter Swans. One Ashy-headed Goose died of gapes, a very uncommon event in a Goose at liberty in a park, and its mate apparently succumbed from grief a few days after, as the post mortem examination showed no disease of any kind. Six Spicifer Peafowl and three white ones, as well as two eared Pheasants (Ho-ki), wander here and there, and then there are the Cranes, four Indian Sarus, a pair of White-necked, a European, and a Stanley. Three fine white Rheas are very conspicuous, and occasionally one catches a glimpse of a Monaul, of which species there are three or four, pinioned and at large. I also came across a Siamese Fireback Pheasant. Pheasantries are being constructed on the steep slope above the little lake, and most picturesque roosting houses in plaster and half timbers with steep thatched roofs; so that the Pheasants' settlement resembles a human village in miniature, with its charming little cottages, where gradually a collection of Tragopans and other rarer species will be gathered together.

Monsieur Delacour hopes to turn out certain Parrakeets and Peach-faced Love-birds at liberty, putting up nesting-boxes for them all about the park.

Mammals do not come within the province of aviculture, but I might mention that there is a small herd of Indian Black Buck Antelopes, three small Chinese Deer, some Patagonian Cavies, and three of those extraordinary rodents, the Capybara, which is the size

of a large pig, but resembles a guinea-pig in form, with a huge square muzzle. They are semi-aquatic and chiefly nocturnal. All these animals are loose in the park, running with three Wallaby Kangaroos, so that as one wanders about on a hot day in August one wonders whether one is in South America or Australia, rather than Normandy. We wish Monsieur Delacour all good luck in the future.

THE REJUVENATION OF JACO

By THE MARQUESS OF TAVISTOCK

Why she was called Jaco I do not know, for she was not a Grey Parrot but a St. Lucia Amazon (*Chrysotis versicolor*). Many members of the numerous family of Amazon Parrots are well-known in aviculture, but the three great island species, *C. versicolor*, *C. guildingi*, and *C. bouqueti*, have always been rare. They are magnificent in plumage, but have not a good reputation as pets. It is said, however, that the very few which have been captured alive have been secured when adult by shooting. This would not tend to produce confidence and docility, and I believe myself that young males taken from the nest would talk as freely and show as much affection for their owners as the familiar Blue-fronted Amazon.

I first made Jaco's acquaintance several years ago when she was in the possession of my late friend Lord Sherborne, better known to Parrot-lovers as Canon Dutton. She was then a splendid bird, her fine condition being due, no doubt, to the fact that in summer she was let out daily in the garden to enjoy complete liberty. She loved her master and was good friends with the gardener, who fed and looked after her, but she plainly showed that she had no use for me. Failing health, unhappily, obliged my friend to give up his parish and exchange the beautiful Vicarage at Bibury for a smaller house in Cheltenham. The change was a sad one for Jaco, also. There were no more summer outings for her, and in time she began to show the effect. Her beak grew long and required periodical cutting, a sure sign that she was growing old.

Last winter my friend was taken to the fuller life of service for which he was so well fitted, and Jaco came to me. He had always told me

that he wanted me to have Jaco, should she survive him, in order that she might again enjoy her freedom. However, on seeing the old Parrot some weeks after her arrival in the Isle of Wight, I was disappointed to find her breathing badly and looking none too well. It seemed as though she was more likely to join her master in a better land than live to enjoy her freedom in this one.

When summer came I had Jaco sent over to me and turned her into a small outdoor aviary. Her breathing was rather better and her appetite fair, but she was very shaky on her legs and her feet seemed to be losing their power of grasping. For some days she remained about the same, then she grew worse and could hardly keep on her perch at all unless she held on to the wire netting with her beak. The case seemed hopeless; a friend of mine once had a Guilding's Amazon which completely lost the use of its legs for some time before its death, and I had no doubt that Jaco was going the same way. I concluded that it would be kindest to have her painlessly destroyed, and began to make the necessary arrangements. Next day, however, Jaco seemed a little better, and from that time on she very slowly improved. Having ascertained as far as possible that she was not tuberculous—a most necessary precaution, by the way, as I once learned to my cost in the case of an old Roseate Cockatoo, who gave the disease to my Banksians—I decided to give Jaco a chance at liberty. I never for a moment expected success; she was too weak to climb and it seemed highly improbable that she could fly, but it was the only hope and I opened the top of the aviary. Jaco walked slowly out and surveyed the trees around her with growing interest. She began to call and get restless, raised her wings, and finally launched herself into the air. She got on remarkably well, and her first flight landed her half way up a tall elm. Subsequent flights took her to the top of the highest trees in the garden, and there she remained. For three days she flew to and fro without showing exhaustion from hunger; then she descended on to the gardener's shoulder and was carried to the feeding-tray, which she afterwards visited of her own accord. Then the rain came, 48 hours of it and very cold. Jaco began to look rather miserable, and I carried her into an aviary shelter. However, she walked out at once and flew away. Another 24 hours' rain followed, and I expected

to have to take her into hospital with a chill, but she was looking better than the day before ; and marvellous to relate she has never ceased to improve, and all the frosts and deluges of this inclement summer have failed to harm her !

☞ But not only does Jaco possess a remarkable constitution, she is endued, apparently, in spite of her age and infirmity, with great feminine charm. She had not been out long before she had captivated the heart of an old king Parrakeet whose story has been told elsewhere. A few days later she made an equally deep impression on a crippled African Ring-neck—a miserable little bird who could neither walk nor fly properly and was bullied by all the other Parrakeets. For a time the king allowed him but little opportunity of pressing his suit, but the power of great passion to overcome obstacles is not only apparent in human circles. In spite of his lame leg and damaged wing, in spite of the fact that he was moulting, the ring-neck defeated the king in pitched battle, and not only him but all the other *Palæornis* Parrakeets as well, including a robust and spiteful female of his own species. After that he had Jaco to himself as long as she remained on the top of the aviary, but whenever she flew off the king rejoined her and the ring-neck was left calling disconsolately. His delight on her return was quite touching and he would sidle up to her and start his conical squirming display, and whenever she drank he always made a point of sipping the drops that ran off the end of her bill ! Jaco treated her two admirers with the reserve suitable to her age and sex. She repelled their advances when they became too familiar and made some of her own, but she occasionally conversed with them and they alone were allowed to feed in the tray beside her, other Parrakeets being driven away. Of the two she preferred the ring-neck, thereby showing her good taste, for he was undoubtedly the better gentleman of the two, the king being inclined to be selfish and greedy. }

In her old home, I was told, Jaco used her wings remarkably little, spending all her time in the same tree. Now, however, either because she has company, or because she considers it good for her health, she flies quite a lot, particularly in the early morning and late evening. Soon after sunrise each day her raucous voice heralds her approach, and she passes my window slightly preceded by the king, whose graceful

swinging flight is more rapid than hers. She looks very imposing, the dark blue and scarlet of her wings showing to great advantage, but she is no song-bird; her cries with few exceptions are loud, dismal, and discordant, and at times she is very loquacious!

Although her late master considered her sensitive to cold, I intend to try and winter her at liberty. So far she has proved decidedly hardy and she has a tremendous lot of down under her thick plumage. For the present, anyhow, she is renewing her youth like the proverbial Eagle.

THE WHITE-CROWNED CHAT-THRUSH

By DR. E. HOPKINSON, D.S.O.

Last April when at Sukuta in the Gambia, I caught two of these birds (presumably a pair) in a trap-cage set for Waxbills. I put them in a cage together, and crammed them with a few grasshoppers; next day they were eating white ants readily and would take grasshoppers alive or dead, so I decided to try and keep them. Then came the question of what was to be the staple food when live food would no longer be obtainable. The choice was limited and practically confined to biscuit and milk. This, fortunately, they soon took to, eating it greedily in a few days, especially when the milk had gone sour, as it so quickly does in the tropics. The birds travelled with me on my usual round till the end of June, when I came to headquarters to catch the steamer home. Here the trouble began; insect food, even cockroaches, was difficult to get, and no cow's milk at all was obtainable only "Ideal", which never sours properly. They took this because there was nothing else, but most certainly noticed the difference, and very soon it became obvious that all was not well "with their little insides". They, however, both lived to get on ship-board, but one (I think the hen) died the first day out. The other, however, lived, in spite of the fact that it was an almost cockroachless ship, and in due course reached home. Then, thanks to helpful parcel-clerks at Lime Street and Euston, to an early Sunday morning visit to the Zoo, and a curatorial motor-bike and side-car, I had the pleasure of seeing this rare bird (probably a first importation) in a *cage de luxe* in its new home in Surrey,

and eating English grasshoppers, all within sixteen hours of leaving the boat at Liverpool. I have since heard that it bathed within an hour or two of arrival, took readily to the soft food supplied, and settled down well. I hope that it will long survive and that we may hear from its owner more about its characteristics in captivity, and especially (if it is a male) as to whether it has a song or not.

I myself never heard any song from these birds. The only sounds I know them to make, either in a wild state or in confinement, are a rather harsh, single whistle and a pretty constant scolding chatter, which gets louder and more strident under the influence of fright or excitement, and is certainly not at all musical. Other members of the genus, however, are known to be good songsters, so perhaps ours may be also.

Knowing this to be the case, I used to attribute a song consisting of a series of sweet liquid notes to these Chat-Thrushes, but later on I found I was mistaken, and that the real utterer of this song was the Senegal Bush-Shrike, *Tschagra senegala*, which is about the most noteworthy of Gambian songsters.

This genus (*Cossypha*) is found throughout Africa. In the Gambia we have two species, *C. albicapilla* and *verticalis*, which have much the same coloration but differ in size, 10 as against $7\frac{1}{2}$ inches in length, the former, the species I brought home, being the larger.

Both species distinctly suggest large Redstarts in plumage, the general colour-scheme being black upper and bright rufous under parts, with clear silver-grey crowns. *C. verticalis* differs from *albicapilla* not only in size but in having a rufous hind-collar, which is absent in the larger species, or in some examples just marked by a few rufous feathers. Both are found in the same sort of haunts, bush near water, particularly the patches of thick palm and other bush along the creeks and round the cattle-wells on the landward borders of the swamps. They are nearly always in pairs, one pair in each suitable site, from which they seem jealously to exclude any near relation.

These bush-encircled wells are definite bird-centres. They are usually rather gloomy dark places, owing to the dense shade of the surrounding trees, and this gloom is distinctly and frequently lighted up by the quick movements and striking plumage of their most constant

frequenters, the larger of our two Chat-Thrushes. The smaller (*C. verticalis*) is, I should have said, a distinctly rarer bird in the Gambia, and is more a haunter of the creek or riverside bush than of these wells, where besides a pair of *Cossypha* one is almost certain to find all day and every day a pair of the gorgeous scarlet-breasted Barbary Shrikes and a pair of Honey-Guides. These constitute the residents, but numerous other birds also visit the wells for water, usually very early in the morning, at midday, and late in the evening, that is when they are not in use for their proper purpose, cattle-watering, and when the birds and their attendant small boys are away.

Doves and Bush-fowl are from their size the most noticeable of the early and late visitors, but one can also be certain of seeing parties of Dusky Bulbuls, Broad-tailed and Black-crowned Babblers, a Drongo or two, and various Waxbills and Glossy Starlings, though these seem to come for water in large numbers during the midday hours, when Doves and Bush-fowl never seem to want a drink.

Our two Gambian species of *Cossypha* in general behaviour and looks seem to me to be nearer the Babblers than the true Thrushes. The general shape, especially the leggy look, their movements, and notes are most Babbler-like, and in captivity their ways and food requirements agree exactly with those of the two Babblers (*Crateropus*), which I have kept at different times

I regret that I know nothing about the nesting or the eggs of these birds, nor can I find any record of these or of the other West African species, but will quote from two sources most interesting accounts about some more southern representatives. This will provide a more complete account of the charming birds of the genus *Cossypha*.

In Stark & Selater's *Birds of South Africa* (vol. ii, 1901, p. 209) five species of *Cossypha* are described, under the English name "Robin-Chats"; these are:—

C. bicolor (Sparrm.) and *C. natalensis*, Smith, both confined to South Africa, where they are popularly known as "Piet-myn-vrouw".

C. heuglini, Hartlaub, ranging from North-East South Africa to the Upper Nile.

C. caffra (Linn.), the "Jan Fredrik" of South Africa.

C. humeralis (Smith), Northern and Eastern South Africa.

C. signata, Sundev., South-East Africa.

All accounts show them to be good singers, and also, at any rate as regards some species, mockers as well. *C. bicolor*, Dr. Stark says, has "a loud and powerful voice, and besides some sweet notes of its own imitates the cries of various other birds, such as the Emerald Cuckoo, Red-winged Shrike, Goatsucker, Buzzard, Sea-Eagle, and even the call of the Tree-frog".

As regards *C. natalensis*, he quotes (p. 211) Mr. A. D. Millar, as follows :—

"This Chat-Robin . . . like other members of its genus, is a perfect mocking bird in the neighbourhood of his haunt. Many a collector has rushed frantically on hearing what he believed to be the Emerald Cuckoo, only to find, on approaching the spot, that it was one of these Chat-Robins.

"They nest in the hollow of a stump or tree . . . laying three eggs varying in shades of colour from olive-green to rich dark brown."

The same writer in his account of the next species, *C. heuglini*, quotes Capt. Boyd Alexander, who writes :—

"In the Zambesi region this species commences to breed towards the end of December ; the male bird is then in full song, but at other times of the year the song is reduced to a short string of babbling notes. The song is rich and mellow, the long-drawn-out notes increasing in volume, suddenly to break off into a string of bubbling sounds that turn the next moment to soft volubility, the voice being raised in pitch till it becomes a faint whisper, just as if the singer were soliloquizing.

"This *Cossypha* frequents thick undergrowth, waste lands, where there are bush-grown dells holding water or reed beds bordering the river. It is a shy bird, and keeps much to the bottom of the tangled brushwood, decoying the listener on with occasional snatches of song, but never allowing him to come to close quarters. The female has no song."

A more recent observer, Mr. C. F. M. Swynnerton, more than confirms all the delightful qualities of this species, writing in an account of the Birds of Gazaland (*Ibis*, 1908, p. 84), as follows :—

"It is by far our finest local songster, and to my mind not one of our boasted English song-birds, hardly the Nightingale, is to be classed with it for a moment. It begins to sing just after the first streak of dawn appears, and continues to do so for little more than half an hour, ceasing before sunrise in order to commence the day's business. During the remainder of the day it remains comparatively

silent, uttering only occasionally, perhaps, a few times in succession, one of its commoner flute-like notes . . . I had the great good fortune to pitch my camp on the Kurumadzi, just beside the haunt of one of these charming songsters, and I would lie awake every morning before sunrise listening to its song. It possessed a wonderful variety of notes. . . . Perhaps the most striking feature of the song is that these notes are frequently accompanied by a high, long-drawn 'Wheee-wheee-wheee', or sometimes 'plee! heplee! heplee!' particularly at the end of the song, which usually begins low and gradually increases in volume. I at first took this to be in the nature of a duet, scarcely believing it possible that one bird could produce both sets of notes at the same time, but I have now had several opportunities of observing the bird while singing, and have little doubt that it does so."

Mr. Swynnerton goes on to describe a nest he found in the head of a thick branching stump about 3 feet from the ground, overhanging the mud at the edge of a pool. It contained two eggs, of which he gives a coloured figure opposite p. 443 of the same volume. They are a light brown in colour.

About the habits of the last two South African species of *Cossypha* little is mentioned in the *Birds of South Africa*, but about the "Jan Fredrik" (*C. caffra*) we are there told (p. 213) that it is common about Cape Town and throughout nearly the whole of South Africa, where it is popularly known as the "Cape Robin". It resembles an English Robin more or less in habits, and is described by Dr. Stark as

"a sociable bird . . . found generally in gardens and about the houses, where it hops and glides about in the bushes, drooping its wings and jerking its tail when it alights. . . It has a sweet song, heard usually in the morning, in addition to the cry . . . 'Jan Fredric'. . . The Woodward state that in Natal it is by no means so familiar a bird as about Cape Town, and that it is there shy and retiring, and only found in the thick woods.

"This bird builds early, often in August, in Cape Town and the neighbourhood; the nest, which resembles very closely that of an English Robin, is placed on a tree stump or in a bush two or three feet from the ground. . . the eggs . . . are somewhat like those of the European Robin, being a very pale blue, profusely mottled with pale rufous, so, that the egg appears to be a pale brown."

From these accounts it will be seen that song is one of the chief attractions of these South African species of *Cossypha*, and one would almost expect that ours must have something more musical than the

sounds I know. I can find nothing about *C. albicapilla*, but the two following notes from the *Ibis* about *C. verticalis* are apposite, and will form a suitable conclusion.

Of this species Major H. J. Kendall, writing on the birds of Sierra Leone, says (*Ibis*, 1914, p. 207):—

“This handsome bird is more often heard than seen. It has a fine song which it utters at sundown from the midst of the densest thickets, and it is only during its short flights from one thicket to another that one catches sight of it.”

In the 1902 volume Capt. Boyd Alexander speaks of its mellow trills; and of *melanonota*, a sub-species of *C. verticalis*, Mr. V. G. K. van Someren, in an account of the Birds of Uganda, etc. (*Ibis*, 1916, p. 472), says that “it is quite a good singer and mimic”.

CORRESPONDENCE

HIMALAYAN SISKINS

SIRS,—In my record of birds which have bred in captivity there are a good many corrections to make. One of these refers to the two Siskins, *Spinus tibetanus* (Hume), the Sikhim Siskin, and *Hypacanthis spinoides* (Vigers), the Himalayan Siskin. These two birds are both often known as “Himalayan Siskins”, hence the confusion in the entries dealing with them.

Of *H. spinoides*, I gave the first breeder as “Teshemaker, 1914. See Bird Notes, 1914, 278”. I believe now that this entry should be transferred to *S. tibetanus*, and be replaced by “Ist. Shore Baily, 1918. See A.M. 1919, 92”. Is this so?

As regards hybrids the entries are: Himalayan Siskin × Greenfinch, Bright, 1916. See Bird Notes, 1916, 83. Greenfinch × Himalayan Siskin, Bright. See Bird Notes, 1917, 195. Himalayan Siskin/Greenfinch hybrid × Greenfinch, Bright. See Bird Notes, 1917, 195. Which Siskin is this, *tibetanus* or *spinoides*?

The other hybrid entry is: Greenfinch × Sikhim Siskin (*H. spinoides*), Shore Baily. See A.M., 1919, 92. This I presume is certainly *spinoides*.

Can the breeders or others answer these questions or help towards the correction of the record?

E. HOPKINSON.

THE VOICE OF THE KAGU

SIRS,—I do not know how many different notes this New Caledonian bird can utter, but when in London during August, 1920, the adult in the Western Aviary of the Zoological Gardens uttered on several occasions a very low chuckle, during which the throat was conspicuously dilated. It is only the sound which I have heard the bird utter since first seen in November, 1906, and was only uttered when I was talking to the bird and getting it to erect its long crest, *never when walking alone* and unobserved by human beings ; and could only be heard when quite close to it.

These latter facts seemed to me to suggest that the chuckle is usually made either in the breeding season, or when two or more of these grey birds are performing the curious antics they are said to do when wild. But perhaps one or other of the co-Editors has heard it at other times besides as above stated, or heard some other noise made by the species much louder than the above ? Would it not be of interest to have a note later on in the Magazine stating how long this bird finally lived in the Gardens, because such might give an idea as to the length of life when wild ? A gentleman from Ceylon, with whom I was in conversation at one time when this bird uttered its chuckle, asked me : “ How long do these birds live when wild, on an average ? ” I replied, “ You’ve stumped me there—I can’t say ! ”

FREDERICK D. WELCH, M.R.C.S.

[The Kagu occasionally utters a very loud call.—EDS.]

THE EDITORSHIP OF THE MAGAZINE

May I venture to express not only my own warm appreciation, but also, I feel sure, that of all the members of the Society, at the way in which Mr. Pocock and Mr. Seth-Smith have so kindly stepped into the breach by undertaking a joint editorship until someone else can be found to undertake the work, and the appreciation is enhanced by the fact that both are very busy men with little time to spare outside their work at the Zoological Gardens and for the London Zoological Society. The Magazine already promises to resume its pre-War aspect, and will once again prove a success if members will do their best to supply avicultural articles and notes.

HUBERT D. ASTLEY.

THE AVICULTURAL MAGAZINE

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THE PECTORAL TANAGER

By SIDNEY PORTER

Some time ago, seeing some Yellow-shouldered Tanagers advertised at a very reasonable price, I wrote for them, but found that they had already found a home, whether on this earth or the next I know not, but the dealer wrote saying that he had forwarded me some Violet Tanagers instead. I was not a little disgusted, for I did not want such common birds as *Euphonia violacea*.

In due course a tiny cage arrived, and the contents were examined, but they were certainly not Violet Tanagers. It was only after searching through quite a number of ornithological works that I came to the conclusion that the birds were Pectoral Tanagers (*Euphonia pectoralis*). These little birds inhabit the south-east parts of Brazil. The male may be described as of the same glossy dark purple as its near relative, the Violet Tanager. There is a patch of yellow down each side of the breast, the abdomen is dark chestnut, the bill black and shiny, the legs dark leaden-grey. The eyes are full, black, beadlike, and prominent. The hen has the head, nape, throat, and upper part of the breast slate grey, a broad stripe of the same colour runs from the upper part of the breast to the vent, and in some lights the head has a beautiful bluish sheen. The sides are bright olive yellow, the upper parts dark

olive green, the flight feathers are edged with yellow, and the under tail-coverts are rich chestnut, similar to those of a Waxwing.

In size and habits these birds resemble their cousins, the Violet Tanagers ; the song (at least, I think it is the song) is exactly like the alarm-note of the Cordon Bleu, only prolonged for a greater time, and uttered with the wings and tail half spread out and the whole body swaying from side to side.

These little birds have that quick, perky, and confiding temperament that renders them so dear to their owner ; indeed, they very much remind me of Wrens (always on the move, jolly, inquisitive, clean, and tight in plumage). It would be a great shame to keep such birds in a cage.

As to food, well, I have never seen birds eat such a quantity ; they must eat quite three or four times their own weight per day, the menu consisting of a ripe banana and a ripe pear per day, only the skins remaining in the morning. The fruit bill must cost something like £9 per year (reckoning 2*d.* for a banana and 4*d.* for a pear), which is several times their cost. Such fruit as peaches, grapes, plums, etc., luckily for one's pocket, do not seem to be relished, but any small insect is greedily devoured. The other day I threw into the aviary a large spider, which the birds quickly darted upon, but in their hurry they missed it, and when it reached the floor it curled up and lay as though dead ; the birds dropped to the ground and hunted all round the spot where it had fallen, but were quite unable to see it, and after hunting round for some minutes gave it up as a bad job, yet they had walked over the spider several times. Very little soft food is eaten, and only once have I seen them eat seed, but that I think was more out of curiosity than anything else. They will usually pick over green food, but whether any is eaten I do not know ; no doubt they look it over for any small insects that might be there. The food seems to pass through these birds very quickly.

The Pectoral Tanager is perhaps more frequently imported than supposed, being confused with the Violet Tanager by the dealers.

Jollier little birds than these I have seldom had, and I can recommend this species to anyone who wants rare, yet tame, interesting, and easily kept birds.

NOTES ON THE LONDON ZOOLOGICAL SOCIETY'S INDIAN COLLECTION

(JULY, 1920)

By E. W. HARPER, F.Z.S., M.B.O.U., in charge of the collection.

After waiting for two months for a suitable steamer, the s.s. *Gamaria* was generously placed at our disposal by the British India Steam Navigation Company, and on May 29, 1920, the collection embarked at Calcutta, arriving in the London docks on July 16, a voyage of forty-nine days. Except for a few days of rough weather in the Indian Ocean, when the decks were awash, the voyage was a pleasant one. The master, Capt. Evans, did all he possibly could for the welfare of the collection.

The collection was made of mammals (including a large elephant and a pair of tigers), birds, reptiles, batrachians, and fishes; but my remarks must be restricted to the birds, of which the following is a list of the species which arrived:—

Tickell's Ouzel, Blue-headed Rock Thrush, Yellow-cheeked Tit, Yellow-eyed and Jungle Babblers, Silver-eared Mesia, Shama, Black-headed Sibia, Spotted-wing, Golden-fronted Chloropsis, White-cheeked and White-eared Bulbuls, Collared Jay-thrush, Black-naped and Indian Golden Orioles, Racket-tailed and Hair-crested Drongos, Crow-pheasant, Blue Pies, Wandering Tree-pies, Blue-cheeked and Green Barbets, Fishing Eagle, Brahminy and Indian Kites, Pondicherry and Bengal Vultures, Indian Loriquet or Hanging Parrot, Cattle Egret, Ceylon Spur-fowl, Chukor Partridge, Burmese Pea-fowl, Jungle Bush-quail, Indian and Little Bustard-quail, Common Crane, Sarus Crane, and Indian Porphyrio.

Many of the cages for the smaller birds were made entirely of split bamboo, about $3\frac{1}{2}$ feet long, divided into compartments of about a cubic foot each, every compartment having a deep water-tin that could not be upset, and a metal food-dish turning on a pivot, which could be replenished without putting the hand inside the cage. Being a great believer in barred floors for the transport of birds and small mammals, I had most of the cages thus constructed; some of the box-cages had wire-netting stretched a couple of inches or so above the

floor of the cage. In both cases the bird's droppings fell through the bars or wire-netting, thus keeping the birds clean. On board ship space has to be economized to such an extent that, even when the cages are cleaned once daily, but for this barred floor arrangement the birds would soon become very dirty.

Keeping insectivorous birds for forty-nine days without such foods as dried flies, ants, cocoons, powdered pupæ, gentles, and mealworms may seem to be no easy matter, but very finely minced lean mutton and hard-boiled egg, added to cooked pea-meal and "ghee" (refined butter), answered the purpose very well. I found that by mashing the hard-boiled egg on a plate with the back of a fork, the particles of egg were of a convenient size. Jay-thrushes, Crow-pheasants, Blue Magpies, and Tree Pies received small pieces of raw meat, in addition to the pea-meal. As I have a high opinion of fruit as an article of diet for birds, this was always provided when procurable, very few birds in the collection being non-frugivorous. When fresh fruit was unobtainable, dates, previously moistened with warm water, were relished by the birds. The Chukor Partridges always looked for their daily allowance of a small piece of raw meat. The Vultures and Kites were fed upon the entrails of the bullocks and sheep slaughtered for the tigers and other Carnivora on board. The only seed-eating bird—not counting game-birds—in the collection was a Black-crested Bunting. The s.s. *Gamaria*, being a new ship, on her maiden voyage, no such luxuries for the birds as cockroaches were to be obtained. Any birds that died on board were given to the predatory birds or to the small Carnivora.

Unfortunately a civet-cat escaped during the voyage, through its cage being thrown down in rough weather and broken. It was three or four days before the animal was recaptured, but in that time it destroyed some of the rarest birds in the collection, viz. Bengal Pitta, Green-breasted Pitta, Niltava Flycatcher, and Yellow-eyed Babbler. The Green-breasted Pitta would probably have been new to the London Zoo, so its loss was particularly annoying. One of the Jungle Babblers opened its cage-door on two or three occasions and escaped, but this species is so decidedly gregarious that it was an easy matter to recapture it.

Some of the Sarus Cranes were particularly spiteful, on one occasion

causing a nasty wound on the back of the hand of one of the keepers. Only by holding an inverted frying-pan with a long handle (made for watering the tigers) over the hand of the keeper when he was taking out or replacing the seed- and water-tins could the savage attacks of the Crane's spear-like bills be warded off. The Peafowl, Cranes, Partridges, and Quails had an almost daily ration of chopped onions, in addition to their staple diet of grain. The Egrets were fed twice daily upon meat or fish in small pieces; owing to the Egret's bullying nature—they were all in one cage—the weaker ones had to be separated.

Perhaps the rarest bird in the collection was a single example of the Spotted-wing (*Psaroglossa spiloptera*), which has the distinction of possessing a genus all to itself! It was about eighteen years ago that I had the honour of presenting the London Zoo with their first Spotted-wing. Some authors, including Jerdon, spell the generic name without the letter *p*. Jerdon, who calls the bird the "Spotted-winged Stare", places it between the Starlings and the Grackles, or Hill-Mynahs; but Oates, in his *Fauna of British India* (Birds), says it "has been universally considered a Starling, but in my opinion erroneously so". He places it near the Silver-eared Mesia, between the Fruitsnekers (*Chloropsis*) and the Bulbuls. Dr. A. G. Butler, in his *Foreign Birds for Cage and Aviary* (part i), considers the Spotted-wing as more nearly related to the Bulbuls than the Starlings. In the same book he quotes me as saying, firstly, that I "considered its affinity to the Starlings very doubtful", and, secondly, "that it was a hopping bird, and did not use its mandibles as dividers after the manner of Starlings." In spite of the Starling-like call of the Spotted-wing, my opinion, expressed in 1902, remains unaltered. Further, Dr. Butler states that Mr. Pycraft, after dissecting a body of the Spotted-wing, "decided in favour of its relationship to the Bulbuls."

One of the most valuable birds in the collection, a Temminck's Tragopan, succumbed to the terrific heat in the Hoogly River between Calcutta and the sea, when the steamer had to anchor, waiting for the tide, for four hours in a dead calm.

Two rare and beautiful Yellow Parrakeets—but no specimens of the ordinary Green Ring-necked Parrakeet—came with the collection for our esteemed member, Mr. Alfred Ezra. Unfortunately one

developed "soft moult" during the voyage, and died the day of our arrival at the London docks; the other one arrived in good condition.

MANTCHURIAN CRANES

By W. H. ST. QUINTIN

My old pair of these Cranes did not moult their primaries last year, but did so this summer.

The young pair, hatched June 1 and 2, 1919, cast all their flight feathers within a day or two of June 21 last. These have almost completed the moult into the adult dress, a small patch of fawn-colour at the base of the neck, between the shoulders, being all that remains of the nestling plumage, and as they are still moulting small feathers the change will probably be completed in the next few weeks. The crimson skin patch on the crown has been already acquired, and altogether it would seem difficult to distinguish the young bird of 15 to 18 months from the parents. The growth of these young Cranes from the first has been remarkable.

This season only one young bird was hatched, the other egg being unfertile, but though only hatched on May 31, and, of course, still in the fawn-coloured plumage, this bird is now bigger than its mother, and is probably a male.

HOBBIES

By A. G. BUTLER, Ph.D.

It has been truly said that everybody should have a hobby; it occupies the mind, gives one an interest in life, and inasmuch as the mind exercises an influence over the health of the body, undoubtedly tends to longevity. Of all hobbies the study of natural history is one of the most fascinating, and the earlier in life that one takes it up the more enthusiastic one becomes in its pursuit. I began when 7 years old to make a collection of British insects, rearing many of my specimens from larvæ found in the garden, and not a few even from eggs. Some years ago an elder sister gave me a portrait taken of myself when

I was 8 years old with a small glass case in my hands containing part of my first collection of British moths.

As I have stated elsewhere, it was in 1871, when at the seaside with my wife, scarcity of insect life induced me to collect birds' eggs, and the difficulty which I experienced in naming them from the scanty illustrations in oological works tempted me to bring out a book of my own which should give the public a better idea of the immense variability of birds' eggs. During the few years which I devoted to making this collection I was successful in securing many interesting variations, both of nests and eggs, many of the latter being illustrated by myself in my *Handbook of British Oology*, and by Mr. Frohawk in *Birds' Eggs of the British Isles*, reprinted and slightly modified from *British Birds with their Nests and Eggs*.

I have always held the opinion that it is the duty of every student to do his best to add such facts as come to his notice to the sum of general knowledge, and even the most insignificant item added respecting the life-history of any species should not be ignored as unworthy of record. We still need much light respecting the causes which produce the colouring and markings of eggs, and it is only through the collector that we can hope to acquire information; we ought not therefore to regard his labours as frivolous or senselessly mischievous. But information respecting the variability of eggs is by no means all that is gained by the collector, for he learns many facts respecting nesting sites, the habits of birds, their notes, their seasons for nidification, and if he is fortunate he may add to the facts already known respecting the nesting-range of the different species; thus I believe I was the first to record the nesting of the Blue-headed Wagtail and the Cirl Bunting in Kent. Dr. Ticehurst also credits me (*Birds of Kent*, p. 93) with being the first to take the nest of the Grey Wagtail in that county, but I imagined at the time that I had heard of a previous discovery of the nest in Kent. Perhaps I was mistaken in this supposition. On two occasions I saw the Great Grey Shrike in that county, and in both cases during the breeding season, and occurrences of this kind are interesting even if unimportant.

Of course, the study of bird-life is more instructive than the acquisition of a collection of eggs, and especially if one only secures

the latter by purchase ; even to see one of our native birds at freedom for the first time gives one a delightful thrill. I shall not forget the pleasure with which I caught sight of a Pied Flycatcher about the year 1903, in a wood at West Wickham, nor my astonished delight in 1868 when a Golden Oriole flew across a road in North Devon, although at that time I had not begun to take a special interest in bird-life. When one turns one's attention to foreign birds one experiences a constant succession of thrills, and at first one is tempted to add aviary to aviary for the pleasure of studying them ; but unhappily this is an expensive hobby, and it needs much leisure if one is to do justice to it ; and then we grow older, and perchance our purse gets lighter, so that we reluctantly are compelled to take up some simpler (though perhaps equally attractive) hobby, such as floriculture. Alas ! I fear that growing flowers and ferns will not enable me to publish many new or interesting facts for the benefit of my fellow-creatures, and it is certainly not likely to help our Society, but where I fail I hope many of our younger and better equipped members will come to the front for the advancement of knowledge.

I have no doubt that the pursuit of hobbies lengthens life ; if it is true that Henry Jenkins, of Ellerton, in Yorkshire, lived to the age of 169, as stated in the *Daily Express* for August 27, how many hobbies did he indulge in, and did they benefit anybody but himself ? If not his long life was unprofitable to his country.

BRAZILIAN CARIAMAS

Mr. George Chalmers, C.M.Z.S., Superintendent of the St. John del Rey Mining Co., Ltd., Morro Velho, Brazil, recently forwarded to the Zoological Society a pair of Brazilian Cariamas or Seriemas (*Cariama cristata*), and sent the following notes on the habits of these birds :—

“ It is hardly necessary to tell you that they feed largely on snakes, which they quickly kill and then fight over as a rule. The birds are generally to be found following a ‘ campo ’ fire, gobbling up partially burnt grasshoppers and other insects. They have a very extraordinary cry, or rather a chorus ; when four or five are together they are very

musical and can be heard for a great distance. If you strike a plate or a saucer with a fork or spoon it generally has the effect of starting the chorns. They are protected by law in this country, on account of their snake-killing propensities. To the sportsman they often become a nuisance, as they are very destructive to young birds. Strange to say, although essentially ground birds, they often perch at night, but not always. They have a great fancy for bits of crockery or anything bright and glittering. Unless they are tame, it is not well to get within striking distance, as, like the Bittern or the Heron, they are remarkably quick, and I have heard go for the eye."

Readers of this note will at once be struck by the likeness the Cariammas show in habit on the one hand to the Secretary Birds of Africa and on the other to the Screamers of South America. The record of the Cariammas calling in chorns and being stimulated to do so by the striking of a plate with a metal implement agrees very closely with what was said in the last number of the *Avicultural Magazine* of the Screamers in the Zoological Gardens being "set off" by the striking of the clock. The superficial resemblance between Cariammas and Secretary Birds has been frequently noticed and discussed, but it is generally considered, I believe, to be purely adaptive and due to similarity of feeding habits, the Cariammas being aberrant members of the Crane-group (Gruiformes), whereas the Secretary Birds are aberrant Accipitres. It is pleasant to learn of the protection extended to these fine and interesting birds on account of their snake-killing propensities. The Secretary Birds are protected in Africa for the same reason.

The Zoological Society now has representatives of the two known species of Cariammas, namely, the one referred to above and the smaller, darker form, Burmeister's Cariammas (*Chunga burmeisteri*), which comes from the Argentine. It may be recalled that a pair of Brazilian Cariammas bred and reared young in the Gardens in 1911 and 1912. Let us hope that this new pair will follow their example. But the hen bird unfortunately broke one of her legs on the voyage. The enterprising surgeon on board, however, instead of having the bird slaughtered, set the shattered limb skilfully in splints, and up to the present time the operation looks like proving a success.

R. I. P.

NOTES FROM BRITISH COLUMBIA

Some of our Avicultural Society friends may be interested to hear that in this valley (about 1,200 feet high and 200 miles inland from Vancouver) I have recently had pointed out to me a Waxwing's nest consisting (except for small lining) entirely of pieces of fairly thick string. The nest was in the fork of an apple-tree, and just looked like an old ball of string. The string used consisted of pieces, each about 2 feet long, which the orchard-owner had used for tying paper bands on his apple-trees, and had cut off last March and left lying on the ground. He has watched the nest with great interest.

It is encouraging to learn that the insect-eating birds here have increased enormously since the apple orchards were planted.

The Mountain Blue Birds, even at this season, are very pretty, while Hairy, Downy, and other Woodpeckers are surprisingly common. I am told that the Ruby-throated Humming-birds are a most magnificent sight when the apple-trees are in full blossom. I had no idea they would come so far north. A delightful little Duck called "Butter-ball" (? Buffle-head) is fairly plentiful on the lakes.

C. BARNEY SMITH.

WALHACHIN, B.C.

October 1, 1920.

STRAY NOTES

The past summer seems to have been a very poor one for the breeding of foreign birds; cold and dull weather has prevailed, and this probably accounts to a great extent for the lack of satisfactory results. In the Zoological Gardens several species that normally breed have failed to do so this year. I hope that members will give their experiences.

* * * *

One gratifying surprise at the Zoo was the breeding of a pair of rare Francolins in the Western Aviary. Mr. Maurice Portal presented to the Society a pair of the rare *Francolinus spilogaster*, from North-East Africa. The species had never before been represented in the collection, and the pair was placed in one of the back compartments of the central portion of the aviary. When they had been there for no

more than two or three weeks the keeper found an egg laid in the sand. We then supplied a heap of sand in one corner, and some brushwood so as to form a screen. A second, third, and fourth egg were laid at different places. These were carefully kept in case the birds should fix on a definite spot. Later on the hen was discovered sitting tightly behind the shelter of the brushwood. She was left undisturbed, but the four eggs previously laid were placed in an incubator. In twenty-one days the Francolin hatched three chicks, and one egg in the incubator also hatched, the latter chick being placed with the others. The four grew well and were reared, though one was taken by a rat when half-grown.

* * * *

Another success at the Zoological Gardens has been the breeding of Gambel's Quail (*Coturnix gambeli*). A pair of these beautiful birds arrived with the New York collection in June, and as they appeared to be in fine condition I decided to put them into the summer aviary hoping that they might breed. This aviary is thickly planted with shrubs, and the grass is allowed to grow, so that there is abundant cover, and the Quails simply disappeared. We saw nothing of them until one day early in September the hen was seen followed by four fair-sized chicks.

* * * *

I had the pleasure in August of visiting the Zoological Gardens in Edinburgh, and strongly advise every member who has the opportunity to pay a visit there. The Zoological Park is situated on a hillside, which is of rock, and by blasting out the rock some very fine natural-looking enclosures have been made for the animals. The Lion, Polar Bear, and Sea Lion enclosures are extremely fine. The gardens are not rich in aviaries or in small birds, but the show of King Penguins is wonderful. There are six of these magnificent birds, one of which was hatched and reared in the Gardens, and at the time of my visit two of the birds were incubating.

* * * *

The process of incubation in the King and Emperor Penguins is extraordinary and most interesting. In order to prevent the single egg becoming chilled on the cold ground of their native habitat, these Penguins have adopted the novel method of resting the single egg

on the upper surface of their feet. The skin of the abdomen is developed into a loose flap, which spreads over the egg, completely covering it and keeping it at the necessary temperature, while the bird remains in the erect attitude, and if she wishes to change her position she walks or shuffles along carrying the egg with her.

* * * *

Many of the older members of the Society will remember Mr. F. C. Thorpe, who was in business as a dealer in Hull for some years. Most of us obtained birds from him in those days, and I think he gave universal satisfaction. He was especially successful in obtaining rare South American species. Now he is farming in Queensland, and in a letter to Mr. Barnby Smith he gives a list of the birds seen on his farm, amongst which are several that are known to aviculturists, such as Regent Birds, Bower Birds, Magpies (Piping Crows), Magpie Larks, Zosterops, Honey-eaters of five species, Laughing Kingfishers, "More-porks," Scaly-breasted and Blue-mountain Lorikeets, King Parrots, Chestnut, Cherry, Double-banded, Zebra, Parson, and Red-browed Finches, Stubble Quail, Zebra Doves, Cockatiels, Black Cockatoos, Fruit Pigeons, Blue Wrens, Coach-whip Birds, Wood Swallows, and Ibises.

D. S.-S.

A COLLECTION FROM NEW GUINEA, ETC.

Mr. W. J. Frost, who has been collecting in New Guinea and the surrounding islands for some months past for the Zoological Society, arrived home on October 13 with a collection of about 130 mammals and birds, amongst which may be mentioned 13 King Birds of Paradise, 2 Greater Birds of Paradise, 3 Cassowaries, 6 Fruit Pigeons, 1 Arn Island Butcher Crow, 1 Blue-rumped Parrakeet, 8 Nicobar Pigeons, 10 Black-winged Grackles, 15 Painted Quails, 2 Racquet-tailed Parrots, 3 Chinese Jay-thrushes, 9 Fairy Blue-birds, 3 Red-fronted Lories, 2 Wallace's Lories, 9 Mitchell's Lorikeets, 4 Green-naped Lorikeets, and 1 Rosenberg's Lorikeet.

CORRESPONDENCE

A RARE MOCKING-BIRD, ETC.

SIRS,—In September I received from Mr. H. E. Rogers a Mocking-bird, the only specimen that arrived in a consignment of birds from the Argentine, and I am told that this species is rare there. It is an extremely graceful bird, of the size of the "common" Mocking-bird (*Mimus polyglottus*), but the whole colouring is inclined to brown rather than grey. The head and back are dark brownish, the primaries and central tail feathers black. A superciliary stripe over the eyes is whitish-fawn, the underparts sandy fawn, and what is very distinctive, a whitish line runs from the shoulders to the tips of the secondary wing-feathers, making a fairly broad and uninterrupted stripe all along the wings. The outer tail feathers are white. I should say the bird is not in immature plumage. Descriptions are difficult or misleading, but I have certainly never seen this species of *Mimus* before. I believe it is *M. triurus*.

I also received at the same time a pair of Pileated Jays (why "pileated"?) but they do not seem to be *Cyanocorax chrysops*, which, as far as I can recall, has the underparts white, whereas in my birds they are champagne, quite genuine, and not a discoloured white, the upper parts being a beautiful deep blue-violet. They inhabit Patagonia, I believe.

There is the same lovely spot of turquoise blue over the eyes as in *C. chrysops*, and also on the nape of the neck.¹ Mr. Rogers sent me on approval a pair of "Jays", which undoubtedly should be called Magpies. Black head and upper breast, the whole body being very dark blackish purple. The central tail feathers were broken, but would evidently be long in the Magpie style.

HUBERT D. ASTLEY.

¹ They appear to be *Cyanocorax azureus*: a most absurd name! There is nothing azure about them, or any feather *approaching* that colour, for azure means an exceedingly bright and pure sky-blue.

NESTING OF ASIATIC WHITE CRANES

SIRS,—I do not know if the nesting of the two Asiatic White Cranes, *Sacrogeranus leucogeranus*, now living opposite the north entrance of the Zoo, and which arrived in July, 1901, was ever recorded. If not, such occurred during the time I lived in London (from 1905–1910).

A large collection of dead vegetation (clover, leaves, etc.) was scraped together, and two eggs laid, the nest being on the ground, and both birds took part in the incubating. But after sitting for weeks the eggs were unfertile, which was disappointing, because both male and female appeared outwardly in good health.

One of them has some blackish feathering running downwards from the level of the yellow iris and between the joining of the red beak and face with the white of head, neck, and other parts (except wings, part black), and this bird would seem to be the male. Except for this there is nothing (so far as I can see) to distinguish the sexes, both about the same size and both red-legged, and it therefore seems worth mentioning as of possible value to some person trying to breed them in future, they being well-proportioned graceful birds and an attraction to any scenery where they will live in Britain.

It seems to me as probable that the above failure to fertilize the eggs was due to some anæmia in one or other parent bird, and should like to suggest to owners of Cranes that such birds be supplied with iron in their water ; and also with titbits of food at intervals to improve and keep the blood in good condition. As showing how fussy these Cranes are at times, I watched the female of the above pair in the Zoo pick out a piece of grass apparently too soiled for its liking in that condition, and give it three long washings in the drinking-water, extending over about four minutes ! At the end of this it was satisfied with it and ate it—afterwards eating much grass *without washing* !

F. D. WELCH.

[The Asiatic White Cranes at the Zoological Gardens lay and sit regularly every year, but the eggs are always infertile, although the birds are a true pair. This failure on the part of *S. leucogeranus* in captivity has been noted in other collections as well.—EDS.]

A WHITE BUDGERIGAR

SIRS,—My surprise was great when on going to the aviaries on September 27 I saw clinging to the wire meshing a beautiful young budgerigar, snow-white with faint blue markings. It had come from a nest-box where there were two others, both blue. It is a male bird, very robust, and in beautiful condition. When the blue cere is fully coloured it will look charming in contrast to the white plumage. The small patches on the cheeks are also blue, the eyes dark brown. The shoulders are very faintly marked with pale blue, and there is a flush (if one can apply the word to blue) of the same tint on the rump; but the general appearance is snowy white. The parents are blue.

HUBERT D. ASTLEY.

September 20, 1920.

HIMALAYAN SISKINS

SIRS,—With reference to Dr Hopkinson's remarks on the Himalayan Siskin, Mr. Teschemaker could probably give more details than I am able to do, as he has, I believe, bred both *S. tibetanus* and *H. spinoides*.

One year we were both successful in breeding them, and Mr. Teschemaker sent me a pair of his young birds, with a view to an exchange. These were distinctly smaller than my youngsters, and of a different colour, which makes me think that my birds were of the larger variety, *H. spinoides*. However, I recently sent a clutch of eggs laid in my aviary to a well-known collector, who tells me that they do not correspond with a clutch he received direct from India. Both this year and last season I reared some very pretty hybrids from a cock Goldfinch and one of my hens. The cocks make good singers.

W. SHORE-BAILEY.

OFFICERS FOR THE YEAR 1921

In accordance with Rule 8 the Council recommend the following members for election as officers :—

President : Mr. Hubert D. Astley.

Joint Editors : Messrs. R. I. Pocock and D. Seth-Smith.

Hon. Secretary and Treasurer : Mr. J. L. Bonhote.

Auditor : Mr. H. Munt.

Scrutineer : Mr. W. P. Pycraft.

In accordance with Rule 9 the Council recommend that Mons. J. Delacour and Dr. Philip Gosse be elected as members of the Council in the place of Messrs. R. I. Pocock and D. Seth-Smith, who retire.

THE COST OF THE MAGAZINE

At a meeting of the Council held on October 25, the Hon. Treasurer referred to the enormous increase that had taken place in the cost of producing the *Agricultural Magazine*, and the probability of a deficit at the end of the year in spite of the present reduced size of the journal and the lack of illustrations. It was decided that there should be no increase in the amount of the subscription, *but the hope was expressed that those members who saw their way to do so would send a donation to the funds of the Society*, and so help to tide over a very difficult period. The Council decided that in future no free advertisements should be inserted in the "Members' Sale" column.

THE AVICULTURAL MAGAZINE

BEING THE JOURNAL OF
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IN FREEDOM & CAPTIVITY

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NOTES ON THE WALL-CREEPER

By W. H. ST. QUINTIN

How many aviculturists must regret the old pre-War days, and perhaps some of us think that we did not then always make the best use of our opportunities (I refer only to aviculture !). I can't help feeling that if I had taken a little more pains with a beautiful pair of Wall-creepers (*Tichodroma muraria*), which came into my possession in July, 1913, I might have succeeded better with them. They had been moulted out twice, I was told, in an aviary on Lake Constance. The female was in very heavy moult, and her movements were considerably handicapped for several weeks, but by the end of November I noted that she was as active as the male. I realized from the first that opportunity for exercise was all-important, and I tried to provide a substitute for perpendicular rocks by setting up planks and slabs of wood at various angles, on which gravel and stones were fixed by cement, crevices and holes being imitated to the best of my ability. It was easy to take these down to be cleaned when necessary, which was an advantage. The birds used these sham rocks freely, showing their lovely crimson wings as they moved about in characteristic fashion, by short leaps. Unlike the Woodpeckers and true Creepers, they made no use of the tail as a support (the feathers of which are too slender and soft for such a purpose).

But still there was something wanting. I now see that I ought to have arranged two or more masses of real or imitation masonry, with

ample flying space between, and perhaps in addition some heaps of stones and old mortar, amidst which their live food might have been scattered. I was deceived by the apparently excellent health of the birds, and did not pay sufficient regard to the consequence of high feeding and a sedentary life! I continued the diet which they were accustomed to before they came to me, a German mixture for soft-billed birds, first quality dried ants' "eggs", and fresh ones, while procurable, as well as wasp-grubs, gentles, and mealworms. Of the latter they probably had too many, for it was hard to resist the temptation to call up the beautiful creatures, which were always watching one's hand and ready to take the tempting morsel from one's fingers.

I kept the male for exactly a year. Early in February he began to assume the dark feathers on back and throat characteristic of the breeding plumage, and all seemed promising. But in June he became lame, with swollen toes, and though I reduced the more stimulating food he remained unwilling to move about, seeming altogether amiss, and on July 30 he was found dead. "A clot of blood on the brain, diseased feet, but organs healthy," was the report after the post-mortem examination. The female survived till two months later, dying from the same malady, to my great regret.

The bird has a wide range, from the Spanish Sierra, across Europe and Asia, to the Himalayas and China, and specimens from the different mountain ranges, I believe, show no variation. In the high Alps it may be looked for wherever there are extensive limestone precipices. Its unusual way of working along the perpendicular cliffs by short leaps, keeping its breast to the rock and expanding and closing its crimson wings with successive jerks, catches one's eye at once. In fact, the little bird appears to disdain the principle of protective colouring, for while the rest of the plumage harmonizes well with the grey rocks, the apparently needless display of the bright colour every time the wings are opened must often expose it to danger. Amongst the likely places for the bird are the perpendicular rocks of the Gemmi Pass and the precipice near the Kur promenade at Lenkerbad, at both of which places I have seen it. I once found Wall-creeper breeding at the entrance to the Trift Thal, near Zermatt, and watched the male feeding his mate

in a crevice, as I thought, dangerously near the footpath, but overhanging the torrent. On July 12, 1904, in the gorge of the Bernina-back at Pontresina, close to the village, and just above the old bridge, I saw a male feeding the female in a chink of the rock, while several of the first brood were foraging for themselves, and now and then came into sight. My friends and I frequently visited the place and could stand down by the water with the nest only some 30 feet above us. But we had to be careful, for the river-bank is a favourite promenade. However, so far as we could tell, no one save ourselves had noticed the birds. In 1913, after the extension of the Bernina railway and much blasting of the rock, and many changes in and about the gorge, I looked for the Wall-creepers in vain.

SOME NOTES ON PESQUET'S PARROT (*DASYPTILUS PESQUETI*)

By the MARQUESS OF TAVISTOCK

Seeing that practically nothing has been recorded of the habits of this strange Parrot from New Guinea, and that only two examples appear to have ever reached Europe alive, a few notes on my bird may be of some scientific and avicultural interest.

Dasyptilus pesqueti is about the size of a Greater Sulphur-crested Cockatoo—perhaps a little larger—and the head and beak have a remarkably close resemblance to these of a Turkey Buzzard. The greater part of the plumage is black, some of the smaller feathers being edged with grey. The thighs, lower breast, and abdomen are scarlet, as are portions of the outer and inner wing coverts and the web of part of a few flight feathers. The tongue is pale pink like that of a human being, the eyes large and dark, and the feet and bill blackish.

In dealing with an entirely new bird food is apt to be a bit of a difficulty. The Pesquet had been brought over on the food usually supplied to Lories, but as his tongue was not that of a honey-eater I thought it advisable to get him on to a more solid diet. Seed, grain, greenstuff, and boiled carrot he absolutely refused to touch, but he took quite readily to banana and moistened sponge-cake. This now constitutes his principal diet, though an attempt to discontinue the liquid

food altogether was not attended with satisfactory results, as fruit alone does not appear to keep him in condition.

From the time of his arrival the Pesquet has been extremely tame, but he is only really friendly with the person who feeds him, showing considerable hostility to strangers, especially when he is feeling a little out of sorts. At such times he ruffles his feathers like an angry hen, half opens his wings, and advances upon the intruder, cursing him harshly. He very seldom tries to fly, but climbs about actively with the whisking motions of a Lory. His voice, as Gilbert White said of the Peacocks, "is grating and shocking to the ear; the screeching of cats and the braying of a jackass are not more disgusting." In other words he makes a noise something like a combination of a heron and one of those rattles with which college spectators at a boat-race are wont to encourage the crews and give vent to the exuberance of their own spirits. He also imitates with great power and fidelity the harsh, grating screams of my black Cockatoos.

Some weeks ago I turned the Pesquet into an outdoor aviary; he hugely enjoyed his first storm of rain, but incessant deluges and cold nights disagreed with him and I was obliged to take him indoors. Next year, perhaps, he will do better, after moulting in confinement and getting more used to our climate. His behaviour towards other birds is quite commendable, for though he snaps at them when they come near him I think he does so more from nervousness than vice; indeed, on one occasion he showed praiseworthy restraint when a Budgerigar, little larger than his beak, disputed the possession of the feeding-tray with him. By the way, some of the smallest Parrots have a surprising amount of cheek; I once had a Blue-winged Lovebird who indignantly repelled a shorthorn cow who approached her!

Take him all round, *Dasyptilus pesqueti* is not a bad bird for an aviculturist who likes an uncommon pet. He is handsome in his peculiar way, intelligent, full of character, and capable of great affection for his owner; probably he could be taught to talk, as he seems to have the imitative faculty, and he is quite sensible enough to learn that his natural cry is more suitable for New Guinea than for civilized society!

THE AUSTRALIAN CAT-BIRD (*ELURÆDUS VIRIDIS*)

By HUBERT D. ASTLEY, M.A.

I obtained at the beginning of November a pair of Cat-birds, a true pair, which is a rare importation. Structurally and in general appearance the *Elurædi* are closely allied to the Bower-birds, which are relatives of the Birds of Paradise. *E. viridis* is the size of an English Jay, the general colour being grass-green, spotted with dull white. The eyes are large, the male's being bright reddish-brown, the female's rather lighter.

Gould asserts that the Cat-birds have never been found to construct any bowers, but the nest is a beautiful structure, bowl-shaped, and entwined round with the large broad leaves of certain trees on a base of twigs, the leaves evidently being picked when fresh. The interior is lined with fine twigs. This Cat-bird inhabits the coastal ranges of New South Wales and Southern Queensland. It is plentiful in Kambewarra and the Kangaroo Valley, or was when Gould wrote of it. Let us hope it is still the case, since the species is evidently protected by law.

This bird derives its name from the fact that its loud cries (which I have not yet heard) resemble the caterwauling of cats on the tiles ! Fortunately I imagine this concert is not performed by night on the part of the birds. Mine may perhaps not be in fully adult plumage, for the white spotting is neither as clear or as large as is depicted in both Gould's and Elliot's family of the Paradise Birds.

At present I keep my Cat-birds in a roomy wicker cage, but next spring if all goes well I hope to turn them into an aviary. They are very active, taking long jumps from perch to perch without opening their wings, and their expressions are decidedly intelligent. Personally I admire their neat appearance and comparatively sober colouring more than that of some of the Paradise Birds, which are inclined to look like over-dressed women and to be clumsy in movement, which the Cat-birds are certainly not. They are fed on an insectile mixture, with banana, apple, white grapes, and a little raw meat. They are very fond of mealworms, although it is said that in

a wild state they prefer fruit to insects. The female resembles the male in a cursory glance, but on more careful inspection one discerns a difference in the size of the head, eyes, and bill, and the male has a more definite white mark on the sides of the neck, besides which in him the breast spots extend further down the abdomen. The bill is very light horn-green, the legs and feet bluish-grey. The head is rather large, and the bill Jay-like in shape.

There are at least seven or eight other species of *Elurædus*, all having grass-green upper parts and some with black cheek patches and more profusely or definitely spotted on breast and shoulders with white. My birds are not at all wild, and the female will take banana from my hand. Both appear as if in time they will become quite tame. The only vocal sound I have heard has been uttered by the male, which almost exactly resembles the sharp "tsit! tsit!" of the red Cardinal, which that bird utters as an alarm note.

A CONTROL BOARD FOR THE EXPORT OF AUSTRALIAN ANIMALS

An Australian Board of Control has been established, consisting of representatives of each of the Zoological Gardens in the Commonwealth of Australia, with the object of collecting specimens of the Australian Fauna for exhibition purposes and disposing of them abroad either by means of sale or exchange.

The Board hope soon to be in a position to supply any mammal, bird, or reptile, *upon the export of which there is no embargo*.

The Board is fortunate in having the advantage of the very best expert advice and the most up-to-date methods for the housing of stock, together with ideal surroundings and conditions which ensure their comfort and health, and with the facilities at their disposal they can give a guarantee of safe delivery in the very best condition of any specimens collected.

The Board of Control is prepared to open up business negotiations either by exchange or direct sale, and, as it is their intention to send agents direct to all parts of the world to secure the most attractive

specimens that can be obtained for public or private exhibition, they will be in a position to meet the requirements of those interested in live animals not only as regards the Australian fauna, but also that of other countries.

Correspondence should be addressed to "Australian Zoological Control Board, Main Base, Taronga Park, Sydney, Australia". Any order given or information required will be promptly dealt with by the chairman, Mr. Fred Flowers.

In connexion with the above the Secretary, Mr. A. S. Le Souëf, writes :—

"The Australian Zoological Control Board has been formed with the object of regulating and controlling the supply of our local fauna and seeing that no bird or mammal is exported that is in danger of becoming extinct or is of direct economic use to the country.

"The opening up of the country by settlement, the introduction of the fox, Starling, and Sparrow, the exploitation of the fauna by dealers, all tend to give the birds a hard battle for it, and some species are on the verge of extinction, more especially the small ground Parrots, genus *Neophema*, two of which, the Chestnut-shouldered (Turquoise) and the Scarlet-chested (Splendid), have not until this year been noted for many years, and were thought to be quite extinct, but, happily, a small flock of each species was seen this season. Their appearance at once put the dealers on the alert, and big prices were offered for them, some Chestnut-shouldered being actually exported to America, which, as far as we know, may have been the last of their race ; so you will well understand the necessity for control by the Customs, State Governments, and the Control Board.

"Another phase of the question is that a case occurred recently where thousands of birds were caught in the open season under permit, shipped away alive, and then killed for the plumage trade.

"In the future consignments will be made through the Board, and zoological institutions and legitimate aviary keepers will be able to get the birds named in our list, copy of which I enclose. We propose to send consignments to each country in turn under an experienced man, who will deliver stock direct or perhaps to a clearing house in London.

"I would suggest that a notice be put in the *Avicultural Magazine*

asking members requiring birds to communicate with us. Perhaps some of the data in this letter may be of interest to members.

“If circumstances warrant some of the rarer Parrots may be exported and perhaps some birds of Paradise, but further details of these will be sent later on.”

List of birds that can be supplied for zoological purposes.

Emu, Cassowary, Wedge-tail Eagle, Whistling Eagle, Kite, Brown Hawk, Scrub-Turkey, Megapode, Black Swan, Chestnut Sheldrake, Chestnut-breasted Teal, White-eyed Duck, Shoveller Duck, Whistling Duck, Pied Goose, Maned Goose, Crested Bronzewing, Bar-shouldered Dove, Peaceful Dove, Red-eyed Dove, Plumed Pigeon, Torres Strait Pigeon, Rose-crowned Fruit Pigeon, Purple-breasted Fruit Pigeon, Little Green Pigeon, Sulphur-crested Cockatoo, Leadbeater's Cockatoo, Bare-eyed Cockatoo, Rose-breasted Cockatoo, Long-billed Cockatoo, Black Cockatoo, Gang-gang Cockatoo, Cockatoo Parrot, Red-winged Parrot, King Parrot, Crimson Parrot, Pale-headed Parrot, Green Parrot, Rosella Parrot, Mallee Parrot, Yellow-collared Parrot, Red-rumped Parrot, Many-coloured Parrot, Warbling Grass Parrakeet (Budgerigar), Blue-bellied Lorikeet, Musk Lorikeet, Australian Crane, Egret, White-necked Heron, Straw-necked Ibis, Red-billed Coot, Great Kingfisher, Pied Crow-Shrike, White-winged Chough, Grey Jumper, Spotted-sided Finch, Zebra Finch, Banded Finch, Chestnut-breasted Finch (Pictorella), Plum-headed Finch, Red-browed Finch, Star Finch, Long-tailed Finch, Black-throated Finch, Masked Finch, Gouldian Finch, Crimson Finch.

CORRESPONDENCE

TWO JAYS

SIRS,—When in the London Zoological Gardens in August last I spent some time in watching two Pileated Jays (*Cyanocorax chrysops*) from La Plata, in the Western Aviary. There was something about these Jays which attracted and fascinated me as they jumped about on the ground by a series of high hops, and one incident was especially interesting to watch.

One bird was sitting on a bough and had been resting there for several minutes, the other hopping along the ground. The latter then flew up and clung to the wire dividing the compartment from the next one, holding there for about half a minute, during which time the one on the bough was still. The bird on the bough then opened its beak wide and began at once to shake its plumage rapidly all over, keeping up such shaking for about thirty seconds, and when it was about half-way through this performance the bird on the wire flew down and put its beak inside the other bird's beak. After this the birds remained so for about fifteen seconds, the one shaking as previously described, but the bird which approached did *not do so*, nor display any extraordinary emotion. Was the bird which shook the male? There was nothing carried that I could see in the beak of the approaching bird, and although I watched for the next hour there was *no* further placing of beaks within one another, although the bird (which had originally been hunting along the ground) returned and kept picking up bits of food thrown in by visitors, some of which it swallowed. Neither was there any more shaking of plumage and such like during next day when I watched them. Was the above a "courting display"? If male and female, the sexes were equal in size and showed *no* difference in plumage that I could see.

The yellow iris showed up markedly against the black beak, head, upper breast, and neck, while a bright blue patch above each eye and also at back of neck made the birds more attractive; the back and wings having a dark metallic blue shade, as also the tail with white tip. When the bird shook these parts showed more brightly. As a contrast to these darker parts the white lower breast, abdomen, and vent showed up prominently. When cracking nuts they held these firmly with both feet close together, and split them by pecks from beak's point, much like the Nutcracker (*Nucifraga*).

FREDERICK D. WELCH.

[The habit of interlocking beaks appears to be characteristic of the Corvidæ. I recently watched a pair of Ravens so engaged for a considerable time, the bill of the male inserted in that of his mate. They are a most affectionate pair of birds and were evidently love-making.—D. S.-S.]

WAGLER'S WOODPECKER

SIRS,—In the *Cambridge Natural History* there is mentioned a genus of Woodpecker which lives partly on the sap of trees. In the Royal Natural History there is an account from an eye-witness of this bird drilling holes in some species of maple.

May not M. Delacour's bird belong to that genus? If so his diet may not be so odd as he thinks.

HERBERT L. SICH.

HUME'S WHITE-EARED BULBUL

SIRS,—In the current number of the *Avicultural Magazine*, I notice among the list of the Zoological Society's Indian collection the "White-cheeked" and the "White-eared" Bulbuls. May I inquire whether *Malpastes humii*, Hume's White-eared Bulbul, has ever been imported? In 1909 I found this bird plentiful near Jhelum and Tangrat, and have no doubt that it could easily be procured, as my friends and I caught several of them. Oates described this bird from a single specimen in the British Museum, and owing to this fact the bird as a distinct species has probably been overlooked. That it is a distinct species I think there can be no doubt.

RAYMOND W. COOPER.

[Hume's White-eared Bulbul may well have been imported and overlooked by aviculturists, who rarely know the exact localities from which their birds are derived, and are not so quick to observe minute details of colouring and so forth as are the Cabinet ornithologists.—EDS.]

PILEATED JAYS

SIRS,—Mr. Astley's note on p. 195 concerning "Pileated Jays" was the cause of my looking up the somewhat scanty literature I have here at my disposal on the identity of a pair of Pileated Jays, which I also purchased from Mr. Rogers, under the impression that my birds were *Cyanocorax chrysops*. I was merely waiting for the birds, who have now moulted well, to rear some young next year.

The species I am referring to may well be called "pileated", if by

this one means carrying a small excrescence of feathers in the occipital region. The head and upper neck are black; there is a small turquoise-blue superciliary line; breast and under-parts pure white and back ashy brown; tail and flight feathers black, the former showing the circular white spot common to a good many Jays and Pies. These birds are obviously less beautiful than Mr. Astley's, but they are most amusing clowns, and have very well-developed ventriloquial powers; this is particularly well demonstrated in the male when a titbit, such as a mouse or sparrow, is put on the feeding-tray. It is obviously his method of calling the hen's attention to the coming feast.

May I respectfully point out to Mr. Astley that the Azure Jay is usually known as *C. cæruleus*, and not *azureus*, a much more fitting if somewhat vague specific name.

MAURICE AMSLER.

ETON.

November 8, 1920.

AN APPRECIATION

SIRS,—Mr. Seth-Smith's "Stray Notes" are to my mind a *very welcome addition*, and I cannot help thinking that many readers besides myself would like to see them continued.

FRED. D. WELCH.

CHESTNUT-WINGED STARLINGS

SIRS,—At Gamage's there were not long ago several individuals of a species which was called the Chestnut-winged Starling. I believe these birds to be *Amydrus fulvipennis*. Tristram discovered in Palestine *A. tristrami*, which very closely resembles the African species, so much so that at first it was thought to be identical. This Palestinian *Amydrus* was found amongst the cliffs and desert rooks in the neighbourhood of the Dead Sea, in the gorge of the Kedron.

I have a pair of *A. fulvipennis*, and very handsome these birds are. In size, that of a rather large Blackbird (*Merula*); the male, glossy black with green reflections and chestnut primaries, the female having a dark ash-grey head and body of duller black than the male's, but with the same primaries of chestnut. These birds utter a loud, flute-like note, which is decidedly musical. The tail is rather wedge-

shaped, and the bill strong and sharply pointed. *A. fulvipennis* inhabits S.W. and S. Africa.

HUBERT D. ASTLEY.

[It is difficult to identify these birds by the names used by Mr. Astley, but most probably the South African species he refers to is *Amydrus morio*, while that from Palestine is *Hagiopsar tristrami*, of which species the late Canon Tristram presented several living specimens to the late Lord Lilford many years ago.—EDS.]

ROCK THRUSHES

SIRS,—Could any of the readers of the *Avicultural Magazine* tell me where it is possible to obtain Rock Thrushes from in any of the coast towns of Southern France or Northern Italy, as I am going there in a few weeks' time and should like to bring one or two back with me if I can obtain them.

SYDNEY PORTER.

NOTICES OF RECENT PUBLICATIONS

BRITISH BIRDS. H. F. & G. Witherby, 326 High Holborn, London
Monthly, 1s. 9d. ; yearly, 20s.

British Birds maintains its very high standard of excellence, and in spite of the present cost of production is able to publish some very fine photographs. In the October number Miss E. L. Turner contributes an article on the Haunt of the Black-tailed Godwit, with some first-rate photographs of this bird nesting on the sand-dunes which protect Holland from the North Sea, while in the November number the same author writes on the Black Tern, and illustrates her paper with some even more striking pictures. Mr. A. H. Machell Cox contributes "Some Notes on the Nesting of the Nuthatch"; Mr. Charles E. Alford writes on Diving Ducks, from observations made along the coast of the North Pacific, and supplies some valuable records of the period of submersion. Dr. N. F. Ticehurst gives some early records of the Crane in Kent, while Mr. A. W. Boyd contributes a most interesting record of the appearance of a flock of Glossy Ibises in Cornwall last September, and other writers record examples seen in Devon and Herefordshire.

The French Avicultural Journal, *L'Oiseau*, ably conducted by our member, Monsieur J. Delacour, continues to produce excellent articles as well as first-rate illustrations. The September and October numbers contain accounts by M. Delacour of the Gang-gang Cockatoo, the first containing a coloured plate of the male and the second of the female; the plates, by Mons. A. Millot, are beautifully drawn and faithfully reproduced, and represent the two sexes in very characteristic attitudes. Two very good text-figures are also given. Mons. Delacour has a pair of these Cockatoos, which show signs of breeding if all goes well with them until next summer.

Other articles deal with the Dipper and Cuckoo in captivity, and the fine hybrid produced by mating together the Mikado and Elliot's Pheasants.

GENERAL EXPENSES FUND

The Hon. Treasurer begs to acknowledge with many thanks the following donations to the General Expenses Fund:—

A. Ezra, Esq.	£10 0 0
Sydney Porter, Esq.	10 0

He would like to take this opportunity of asking all those members who can to help even with a very small donation. The cost of the Magazine in its restricted and unillustrated form has risen from £13 to £29 per month, so that unless members assist it will be impossible to carry on for more than another year without raising the subscription, which the Council are loth to do. The Council and Editors fully realize that the Magazine is not what they would and could make it had they more funds at their disposal, but they hope that for this year members will remember the present purchasing value of a sovereign, and make an effort in spite of the difficulties of the times to keep the Magazine devoted to their hobby afloat. The balance-sheet when made up and audited next month will be available for inspection by any member who cares to see it, but for reasons of economy it will not be printed and circulated. All donations will be duly acknowledged in the Magazine.

J. L. BONHOTE.

Hon. Secretary and Treasurer.

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THE AVICULTURAL SOCIETY.

FOUNDED 1894.

Persons wishing to join the AVICULTURAL SOCIETY are requested to communicate with either of the Hon. Secretaries or the Editor.

The Magazine can also be had from the Publishers by **NON-MEMBERS** at a Subscription of **25/-** per annum.

NOTICE TO MEMBERS.

The Subscription to the Avicultural Society is **£1** per annum, due on the 1st of November in each year, and is payable in advance. The entrance fee is 10/6. The *Avicultural Magazine* is sent free to members monthly. Members joining at any time during the year are entitled to the back numbers for the current year, on the payment of entrance fee and subscription.

ALL SUBSCRIPTIONS SHOULD BE SENT TO THE HONORARY TREASURER,

ALFRED EZRA, Esq., Foxwarren Park, Cobham, Surrey. Telephone: 29 Byfleet, not to the Publishers.

All MSS. for publication in the Magazine. Books for Review, and Advertisements should be addressed to the Editor, **Dr. GRAHAM RENSHAW**, Sale Bridge House, Sale, Manchester. Telephone 144 Sale.

All Queries respecting Birds (except *post-mortem* cases) should be addressed to the Hon. Correspondence Secretary, **Dr. A. G. BUTLER**, 124 Beckenham Road, Beckenham, Kent. [*Enclose stamp for reply.*] Telephone 1344 Sydenham.

All other correspondence should be sent to the Hon. Business Secretary, **Dr. L. LOVELL-KEAYS**, Stoke Lodge, London Road, Guildford. Any change of address should be at once notified to him. Telephone 358 Guildford.

Since the resignation of Miss ALDERSON the duties of Hon. Business Secretary were carried on for a period by Mr. POCKOCK, to whom the best thanks of the Society are due.

Dead Birds for *post-mortem* examination should be sent to the Society's Pathologist, **Prof. G. H. WOOLDRIDGE, F.R.C.V.S.**, Royal Veterinary College, Camden Town, London, N.W. Telephone: North 1703.

Advice is given, *by post*, by members of the Council to members of the Society, upon subjects connected with Foreign and British birds. All queries are to be addressed to the Hon. Correspondence Secretary and should contain a 1½d. stamp. Those marked "private" will not be published.

The Magazine is published by Messrs. **STEPHEN AUSTIN & SONS**, 5 FORE STREET, HERTFORD, to whom all orders for extra copies, back numbers, and bound volumes (accompanied by remittance), should be addressed. Cases for binding the Magazine (in art cloth, with gold block on side) can be obtained from the Publishers, post free and carefully packed, at 2/6 each; or the Publishers will undertake the binding of the Volume for 4/-, plus 9d. for packing and postage. Members are requested to state whether they want the wrappers and advertisements bound in at the end or not. Telephone: 46 Hertford.

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The sale of the above is temporarily withdrawn pending action by the Council.

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NOTICE TO CONTRIBUTORS.

1. Correspondents are requested to write on one side of the paper only. This saves the compositors' time if the article is accepted.

2. MSS. should be posted sufficiently stamped. This saves the Society's pocket.

3. MSS. should be very clearly written, and are better if typewritten. This saves the Editor's time.

4. MSS. should be folded, not rolled. This saves the Editor's temper.

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THE AVICULTURAL SOCIETY.

FOUNDED 1894.

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1920.

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